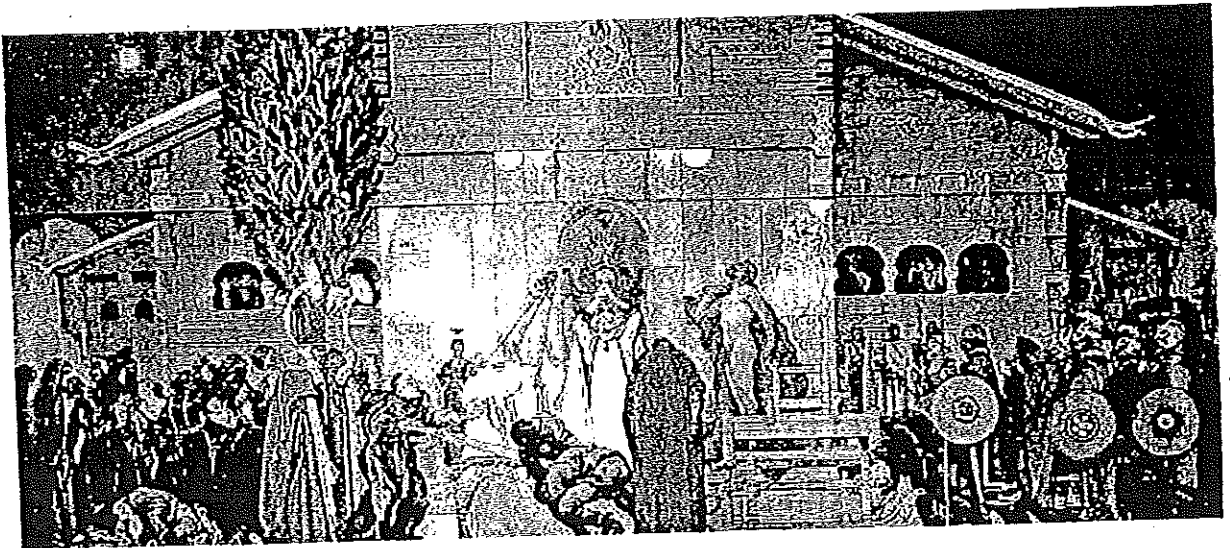


NATIONAL PRISON KINDRED ALLIANCE

BOOK
OF
BLOTAR



A CATALOG OF BLOTAR,
SUMBELS, AND RITUALS

COMPILED FOR

The
National Prison Kindred Alliance

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Forward

143.

Dost know how to write, dost know how to read,
dost know how to paint, dost know how to prove,
dost know how to ask, dost know how to offer,
dost know how to send, dost know how to spend?

144.

Better ask for too little than offer too much,
like the gift should be the boon;
better not to send than to overspend.

.....

Thus Odin graved ere the world began;
Then he rose from the deep, and came again.

The Havamal

Among other things, we are advised to offer sacrifice, primarily, to our Gods & Goddesses, and to our ancestors, as well as a number of additional spiritual beings and entities. If there are commandments from our deities, this is the most important. To believe in the Gods is a self-evident state, and not one which needs to be commanded. Either you do or you don't. (One of my quirks with the judeo-christian ten commandments, "Thou shalt not take any gods before me...")

This book has developed over a period of several years, and always been near the top of a certain writer/editor's "To Do" list. Now, it is finally in print, though by no means is it complete. It never will be. The faith known variously as Odinism, Asatru or Wotanism is a constantly changing, organic force in our existence. To this end, it would probably be appropriate to title this as Book 1, but then that would add the burden of compiling another later on, and we should probably leave well enough alone. For now.

Many people have contributed to this work, either directly or indirectly, and it seems appropriate that they be recognized here. I caution the reader that this may be a bit long, but I've always believed that credit should be given where credit is due, regardless of the price...

Bill Fogg, George Bailes, III and Tom Marcks were the first to invite me into what has become a wild ride, spiritually speaking. That is, if you discount a childhood where my favorite comic book (aside from Classics Illustrated) was Marvel Comic's Thor. G. Scott Tolley was next, and he was the first Gothi I ever encountered. As such, his teachings, inspiration and guidance have formed the foundation for the spiritual path I have chosen to take, or perhaps, the one which the Norns long ago decreed for me to take... Scott is, perhaps, the single individual who helped the most in the early days of my reawakening to the folk consciousness. It was he who helped me to realize that Heimdall had chosen me, initially, and opened my eyes as to my initial role within our kindred, The Woodpile Kindred. Those were days of great comradeship, spiritual growth and development for me and several others. Other tutors and role models at the time included Jeff Johnston, Henry Tisor, Tony David, Charles Stoering, Mike Simons, Peter Ratzlaff, Daniel Coughlin, Roadkill, James Leisinger, James Burmeister, Dingo Boy, Tim Shankey, John Fisher and several others. Not only were they tutors and role models, but fellow students, too.

Since that golden time, I've been exposed to more of our faith community, and met some of the heroes I'd only read about.

The work of Valgard Murray and the Asatru Alliance of Independent Kindreds has to be mentioned, as it was the material from this group (World Tree Publications), which provided the bulk of our book hoard and study materials at the Woodpile Kindred for some time. Valgard has proven to be a tireless pioneer in the prison outreach ministry of Vinland, and must be remembered as such.

Stephen McNallen is an Asapioneer without peers, and much of his early work has had a great positive impact on our faith community at large. His works have influenced the development of the dream which became reality, the National Prison Kindred Alliance.

Diana Paxson and Stefn Thorsman of the Troth have helped considerably in counsel and rede. Diana is another tireless promoter of our ancestral faith, and is most notably a pioneer in the rediscovery of Seidh, and developing the formulae for such in today's world. She has also proven to be a great influence in writing and administrative areas, presenting things which cannot be seen when one is too close or immersed in a project. Stefn, a close personal friend, shieldbrother and mentor, has also contributed greatly, going so far as to become directly involved with the dream which became reality, the National Prison Kindred Alliance.

Prudence Priest of the American Vinland Association must also be mentioned here. Her constant encouragement and positive optimism have been of great help. She believed in the dream before many others did.

In that vein, Patrick Buck and Lissa should also be acknowledged here. In the dark days of 2251, when the birth of the child to be known as the National Prison Kindred Alliance was rapidly becoming imminent, both of these people believed and encouraged when many others wouldn't. Patrick has gone on to become one of the NPKA's biggest supporters, and his counsel is always welcome.

Michael and Shay Rose of Hammersign Productions were a part of all of this as well, though we have since parted company. Regardless of differences, we share a commonality in the dedication to prisoners which can be called Tru. Michael's sound counsel helped considerably.

Laurel Owen is a Rose, the Tennessee Rose to be precise, and her enthusiasm and fresh outlook have served to promote this work greatly. Laurel's counsel is always taken seriously, and it was she who helped set boundaries for us in our work. She remains one of the most valued parts of our lives.

Ed and Tina LeBouthillier are gems within our faith community, and their quiet encouragement and support have made much of this possible. Without some very timely assistance, much of the positive that has occurred would not have.

Paul Hestekind, one of the rare individuals I've met who was actually born into the faith has proven to be an exceptional kinsman of honor and quiet strength. He sets a constant example for me and others to follow, and is an activist in promoting our faith where others would never tread. A true Defender of the Faith!

Liz Ashmead has proven to be a steadfast and very positive sister in kinship, sharing a unique relationship with Wotan, which has helped immensely in coping with his extreme needs and demands. Her positive reinforcement has contributed greatly to this work, as well as helping to develop the dream which became reality, the National Prison Kindred Alliance.

And then there is one who stands above the rest, for me. Over forty years of prison outreach work, and more than that in promoting our faith. A friend and personal mentor, she is tireless in her work, seemingly ageless. I can honestly state that if it were not for the encouragement of the Volk Mother, Else Cristensen, none of this would ever have come to pass. Truly without peer, Else has provided support and guidance for myself and thousands of others. She is, without doubt, one of the greatest blessings our Gods & Goddesses have gifted our folk with in these times!

This section would not be complete if the following were not mentioned. Asrad, Heimgest and Asbjorn of the Odinic Rite have, by far, been the greatest influence and support in all of this. In years gone by, when the

Woodpile Kindred first reached out to the faith community, it was Asrad of the Odinic Rite who replied, when most others did not. A friendship, which is so highly treasured today, developed, and it was Asrad's support and encouragement which helped formulate the original dream. He remains a steadfast personal friend and counselor whose rede is always well accepted. Asbjorn is one who may not realize fully how much his conservative approach to promoting our faith has influenced us and helped us to keep our course. And then there is my brother, Heimgest. I never dreamed I would actually encounter another individual who shared as many of the same challenges and triumphs with Odin. I have found this with Heimgest. He alone has helped me to gain greater understanding and a semblance of greater ease (it's never comfortable) in both my dealings with the AllFather and that which is my Wyrð.

Our daughter, Honore, and our grandson, Gabe should be mentioned, as they are what we work for, albeit indirectly. The energy and optimistic outlook of their youth helps to infuse us with continuous flow of positive forces.

My wife, Monica, known to many as Walkyrja, is my living Goddess, best friend, companion, lover, and the light off my life. It is she who has to deal with my inadequacies, self-doubt, frustrations, and living the dream which became reality, on a hour-by-hour, daily basis. Though she has accompanied me in this quest, I don't think she had any idea what she was getting into (neither did I in retrospect), and she has not wavered once. She is the rock, for me.

And finally, there are the prisoners we work with, most notably those whom we refer to as our sons: J. W. Botts, Casey Buser, Kurtis Davis, Phil Hickey, Ronald Dean Jackson, Richard Ward, Jaime Welch and Kenneth Winne, listed in alphabetical order per WarMomma. There is not enough space to list the members of various kindreds and lone practitioners who continue to inspire us day-in-day out. Aaron Lantis, Todd, Terry and William should also be included here. If not their direct influence, their questions certainly made one delve deeper and think.

Special thanks and acknowledgement go to Kathy & Darryl Metzger, Karlee & Jeff Murphy, Christie, Jonna, Janean Sylvester, and all the folks at Sigrdrifa Publications and Hypatia as well, for jumping on board, rolling up their shirt sleeves and getting on with the business at hand, and to Tina Sterling and Juana Garcia who helped make many things possible when the money just wasn't there. Harold and Sandy Moe gave trust when it was most needed. ViVi Stenberg wrote honestly and fairly, despite the potential for sensationalism.

I can only hope that this book, this collection of work from many people, serves as an inspiration for others.

John R Post
Napa, CA
2253 R.E.

In this second edition, I have to make note of the fact that some within our Faith Community have labeled this work as a "McDonaldizing" of our faith. Ouch! Well, those people have narrow minds and seek to reassure themselves that their way is the only way. This work, and those that follow serve as a permanent record, a legacy of the work that has been done, during theses early days, to ReAwaken our Folk to the ancestral path.

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Intrōduction



Introduction

Presented here, for the first time ever in one volume, is a collection of blotar, sumbels and rituals from several organizations, presented as a comprehensive catalog. With our focus being on Prison Outreach Ministry, we have answered the call of the over eleven thousand incarcerated kinsfolk who follow the path of the religion known variously as Odinism, Asatru, Wotanism, or the Northern Path. It is with them in mind that several groups have come together to compile a catalog of blotar and rituals appropriate to our faith and heritage.

The Odinic Rite, Temple of Wotan, The Troth and several independent kindreds have been gracious enough to donate rituals to this project, and we feel this alone is history making. The seeming unity of purpose involved is another step toward bringing the various factions of our faith together to work toward common goals.

Within this tome you will find an explanation of holy days, the need for ritual, ritual construction, Ritual Regalia and several blotar and rituals for most of our holy days and festivals. This is presented so that groups of varying outlook and spirituality may find the system or structure which works best for their particular group.

We do not claim these to be the only valid Odinist rituals, or the first time Odinist rituals have been published - for they are not. All of the above named groups as well as the countless kindreds, hearths, faith-related communities and lone practitioners have contributed printed rituals over the era of reawakening these past hundred years. Various groups overseas and in Vinland have published collections of Odinic blotar, a pre-war example in English being those of The Angle Kin Body or First Anglecyn Church of Odin, founded by Alexander Rudd Mills (a.k.a. Tasman Forth). Though today these rituals seem very dated and are clearly the product of their time and prevailing attitudes, they are of interest. Also of interest is the usage in these rituals of the "Hailing stance", which due to political usage is today a stance of some controversy, though religiously valid. Also worth mentioning is the rich variety of rituals contained herein.

Many prison kindreds and hearths have constructed their own sets of blotar, and some of these are included herein. Many more have written seeking information, templates and formulae. What to do? The idea of publishing a catalog of blotar was born from this. A catalog format was chosen as, in working with so many prisoners and freeworlders, we rediscovered the variety of ways that our folk pay respect to our deities, ancestors, and all manner of spiritual beings. What is correct and appropriate for one may not be so for another. It was this way for our ancestors as well. The differences in approach, names, sacrifice, etc. varied from tribe to tribe, area to area, region to region, just as our root language developed from simple dialect differences to different branches of language. Such is the case with approaches to our ancient path. Hence, the need to address rituals on a broader level.

Credit must be given where credit is due. From research we find that the first published formula of blotar and rituals in recent times in The Rituals of Asatru, by Asapioneer Stephen McNallen of the Asatru Folk Assembly. This set of rituals became available in the late 70s, and has served as the foundation for many folks in Vinland. Shortly thereafter, The Odinic Rite published their Book of Blotar, and this more ritualized format has influenced even more Odinists today than any other. Ron McVan, in his book, Temple of Wotan, shows how greatly

he was influenced by the Odinic Rite's work. We think the reader will find great influences from both schools in the construction of the blotar contained herein.

Our faith is as ancient as our race, and it is also as relevant to our folk today as it was to our ancestors. The primal energy, the inner reality, is unchanging, and continues to drive us in the reawakening. However, its external expression will change and evolve. This is Nature's way, and if it does not do so, it will become obsolete, ultimately dying in anonymous extinction. If this were not so, we would either still call the Gods & Goddesses by their earliest of names in languages now forgotten with time, or we would never have come to the reawakening. Just one example. What is important is to remember that despite change, evolution, or any other development unique to our faith, the primal energy, this inner essence, and the inherent truths within us never changes. The Odal force continues throughout time. It is also of prime importance to remember it is the unique orlog for us as a unique folk and our path to the higher wyrd can be achieved if we heed its timeless call and truths.

It should be stressed that this book is to help guide and provide options, not to hinder or block; to inspire growth and understanding, not to bind or constrict. Innovation, to a degree, is encouraged, and sometimes necessary. For example - a lone practitioner may well find that it is inappropriate to use the "readings" and will perhaps adapt the appropriate sections to fit his or her needs. This is of course personal choice, and the needs of the local kindred, hearth or community must be brought into consideration. Again with the readings, adherents may wish to utilize other material, which is either better suited or more appropriate to their local kindred or personal needs, or even write their own.

What is most important is that we continue to have the ability, and take the opportunity, to pay respects to our Gods & Goddesses, ancestors, wights, etc. In doing so, we assist in the reawakening by empowering our deities.

Hail all our Holy Gods and Goddesses!
Hail our Family, our Faith and Folk!

Þ Ó R S Þ L Ó T

1. The gothi approaches the place of sacrifice, and with the ritual þórshamarr performs the Hammer rite first in the North, then in the East, South and West and returns to the stalli or altar where he makes a final salute. As he performs the Hammer rite he says:

Vingþórshamarr vigja ok halga þessa vð.
 Hammer of þórr hallow and sanctify this stead.

2. Facing North with both arms raised, the gothi now says, invoking þórr:

Heilisa Ása-þórr! Vingþórr! Rauðskeggr! Himinsjöll!
 Hail to you þórr! Vingþórr! Redbeard! Heaven's ruler!
Óðin's son! Landássi! þórr í Ásgarð.
 Óðin's son! God of the land! þórr in Asgard.

3. The gothi now pours ale or mead into the horn and holding it aloft says:

Heyra þæn mína þórr! Komdu sigrsæll! Heill þórr!
Heill þórr! Heill þórr! þórr vintu taka við þessu frá oss!
Vigja ok helga þessa blót! Vigja ok helga í nafni goðanna!
Vigja þessa mjuvði!
 Hear my petition þórr! Come you blessed in victory! Hail þórr!
 Hail þórr! Hail þórr! þórr accept this our offering! Hallow
 and sanctify this sacrifice! Hallow and sanctify in the name
 of the Gods! Hallow this mead!

4. The gothi now lowers the horn and makes the Hammer sign over it and sips from it and says:

Til þórr!
 To þórr!

The horn is now passed to each participant who sips and/or toasts þórr. More ale or mead is poured into the horn as it is Hammersigned by the gothi and poured then into the bowl after all have drunk from the horn.

5. The gothi takes up the sacrificial twig, dips it into the bowl, and going first to the North, then to the East, South, and West, sprinkles the mead and says:

Ek gefa þér þórr blessun!
 I give you the blessings of þórr!

6. The gothi now returns to the stalli and takes up the bowl with remaining mead and goes to the North; he pours out the mead upon the ground saying:

Til þórr, Miðgarðsvinur, heill þórr í Ásgarð!
heill þórr í Miðgarð, heill Ása-þórr ok all þau goði!
 To þórr, Midgard's friend, hail þórr in Asgard;
 hail þórr in Midgard, hail Ása-þórr and all the gods!

7. The gothi now returns to the stalli and facing the kindred with raised arms says:

Ásatrúarar, fara með þórr! Fara með friði!
Fara með goðanum! Fara heill!
 Believers in Ásatrú, go with þórr! Go with peace!
 Go with the Gods! Go in health and wholeness!

The Need For Ritual

RITUAL

Long ago and far away
We worked by night and hid by day;
We could not in the open go
Because the church did fear us so.
They feared us for our power was true,
Because our magick they could not do.
And so they cried with evil smirk,
"Let's burn them all—'tis devil's work!"
And burn they did, and torture, too.
But still we managed to come through.
And so today our path is free
To worship Lord and lady.
We work our rites just as of old
Now in the open, free and bold;
We did not change or go away
We tell the world, "We're here to stay!"

— AUTHOR UNKNOWN

And so it is written,...

16. ABOUT SACRIFICES.

Sigurd, earl of Hlader, was one of the greatest men for sacrifices, and so had Hakon his father been and Sigurd always presided on account of the king at all the festivals of sacrifice in the Thronthjem country. It was an old custom, that when there was to be sacrifice all the bondes should come to the spot where the temple stood and bring with them all that they required while the festival of the sacrifice lasted. To this festival all the men brought ale with them; and all kinds of cattle, as well as horses, were slaughtered, and all the blood that came from them was called "hlaut", and the vessels in which it was collected were called hlaut-vessels. Hlaut-staves were made, like sprinkling brushes, with which the whole of the altars and the temple walls, both outside and inside, were sprinkled over, and also the people were sprinkled with the blood; but the flesh was boiled into savory meat for those present. The fire was in the middle of the floor of the temple, and over it hung the kettles, and the full goblets were handed across the fire; and he who made the feast, and was a chief, blessed the full goblets, and all the meat of the sacrifice. And first Odin's goblet was emptied for victory and power to his king; thereafter, Niord's and Freyja's goblets for peace and a good season. Then it was the custom of many to empty the brage-goblet (1); and then the guests emptied a goblet to the memory of departed friends, called the remembrance goblet. Sigurd the earl was an open-handed man, who did what was very much celebrated; namely, he made a great sacrifice festival at Hlader of which he paid all the expenses. Kormak Ogmundson sings of it in his ballad of Sigurd: —

"Of cup or platter need has none
The guest who seeks the generous one, --
Sigurd the Generous, who can trace
His lineage from the giant race;
For Sigurd's hand is bounteous, free, --
The guardian of the temples he.
He loves the gods, his liberal hand
Scatters his sword's gains o'er the land."

Heimskringla, Samuel Lang translation, chapter 16

There is no valid argument against making sacrifice to our Gods & Goddesses, ancestors, or other spiritual beings associated with our faith. In fact, quite the opposite. We are commanded to do so. The Havamal, the sayings of Har, who is known to be the AllFather, Odin, is quite clear on this, as well as a good deal of other issues.

143.

Dost know how to write, dost know how to read,
dost know how to paint, dost know how to prove,
dost know how to ask, dost know how to offer,
dost know how to send, dost know how to spend?

144.

Better ask for too little than offer too much,
like the gift should be the boon;
better not to send than to overspend.

The Havamal

So, why do it, why bother, other than the above-mentioned directive? The answer is simple, for our deities and ourselves. Huh?

Our Gods and Goddesses have long slumbered through the christian era, and are now awakening as we heed the call of our blood and heritage. By giving sacrifice, we are empowering the awakening of our ancestral deities. We are also empowering ourselves and the lives we lead. And, it is this empowering which strengthens us on our spiritual path, towards positive growth, enlightenment and worth.

Sacrifice through ritual serves to open channels to our deities, and this occurs through a number of various ways. The ritual can serve as a focus point for one who has a more "direct" line to our deities, or it can serve as an opening of the way, so to speak. Regardless, by symbolically giving sacrifice to our deities, we not only empower them further, but we pay respect to them by following time-honored traditions.

Ritual not only empowers our deities and us, but also offers us avenues of communication and protection, not to mention focus and clearer guidance on our personal paths. It is through the use of daily ritual that we attain a certain degree of balance. This balance ripples throughout our daily life, enforcing our ability to achieve those things that the chaos of this modern existence might otherwise limit to varying degrees.

Here follows an outline of a daily regimen of ritual. By no means does this mean that one is required to do each and everyone of these rituals. In actuality, this information is presented as an example, and we hope you will adapt such information to your personal needs.

It all starts with your first waking moment.

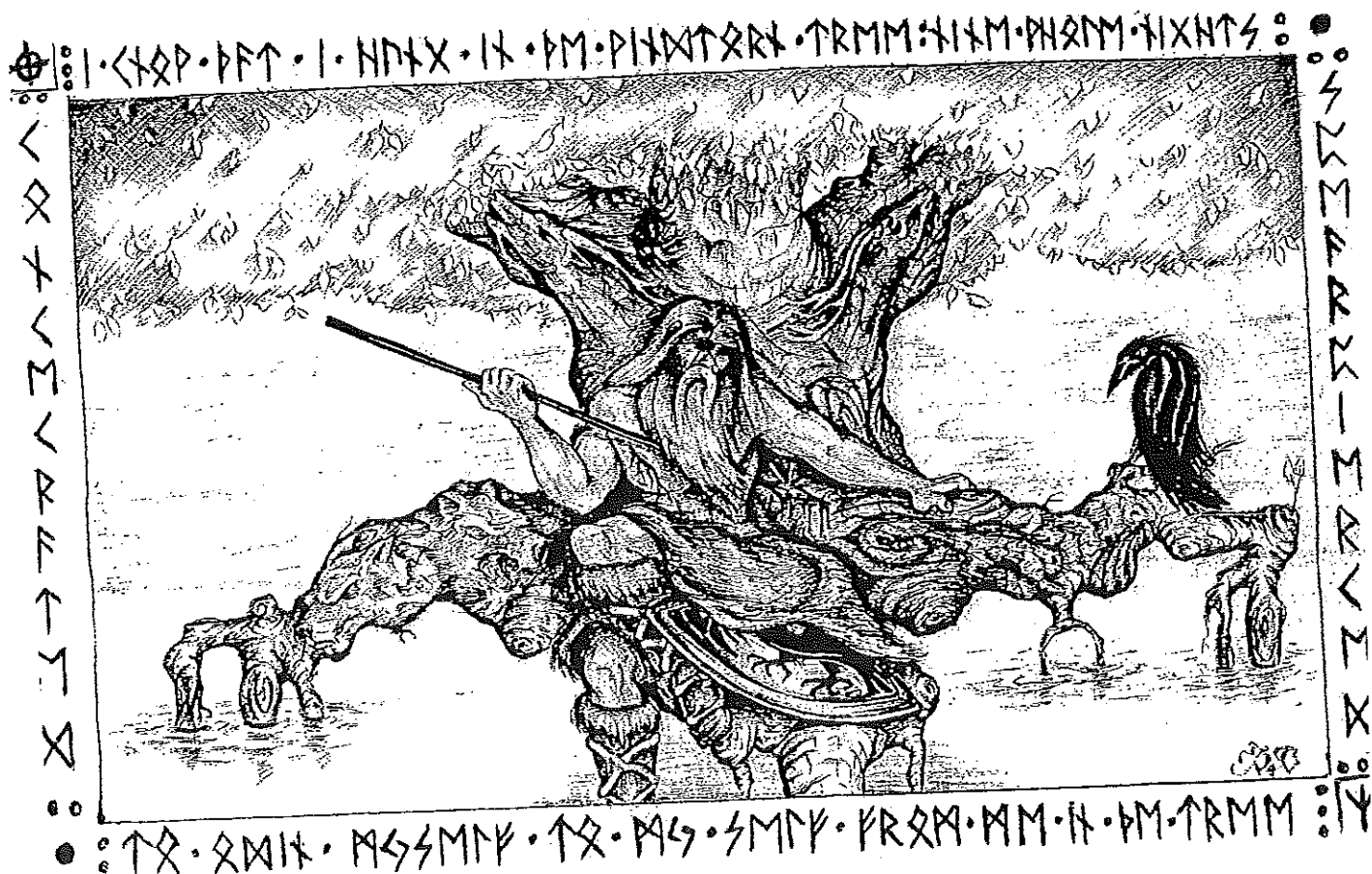
1. A quiet acknowledgment of the Gods lets them know you are up and about, ready to face the challenges presented for the day. The Hail Day ritual can be used for this, or simply a quiet word with your patron.
2. Casting the Fylfot about your person sets a protective barrier. This can be done at the beginning of the day and the end of the day, maintaining the shield throughout.
3. Calling upon deities to bless your breakfast adds to the depth of one's commitment to his/her path. Calling upon deity for blessing on meals only adds to the blessings one can hope for.
4. Pulling one rune to focus on for the day helps us to ride the wave Wyrð has in store for us on that particular day.
5. A minor dedication of the day to either one's patron deity, or one appropriate to the aforementioned rune pull helps add to the day as well.
6. If traveling to work and back, or elsewhere, a word to Thor invokes safety in travel.
7. If appropriate, dedicating certain aspects of your job or studies to the Gods or the Folk during the day, helps with accuracy, ease of completion and many other aspects.
8. Reading from a book, which relates to our faith, culture or heritage is ritual, especially when our Gods are called upon to assist in understanding that which has been written. This is an excellent way to utilize free time, and a short meditative period afterwards does wonders.

9. Closing the day with a quiet ritual is always good. This can be in the form of a formalized ritual, or just a quiet word or prayer to the Gods, or one's personal patron.

It must be emphasized that the above is not any sort of set requirement, but a guideline for one to enhance their day with rituals.

Blotar and sumbels are important parts of our discussion on ritual, and in the following pages you will find some basic information regarding these.

For more information on these subjects, we refer you to The Odinic Rite Book of Blotar; and Ritual Made Easy, available through Wyrð's Way. These books contain several formulae for blotar and other rituals, as well as more information regarding Odinic/Wotanic ritual in general.



Statement On Sacred Ground



The issue of Sacred Ground, Outdoor Worship areas and such has become one of the newer challenges as more of our folk reawaken to their ancestral faith. Older kindreds and hearths are actually buying land and erecting Hof's, groves, and setting aside sacred places, while our European comrades are reclaiming sacred sites.

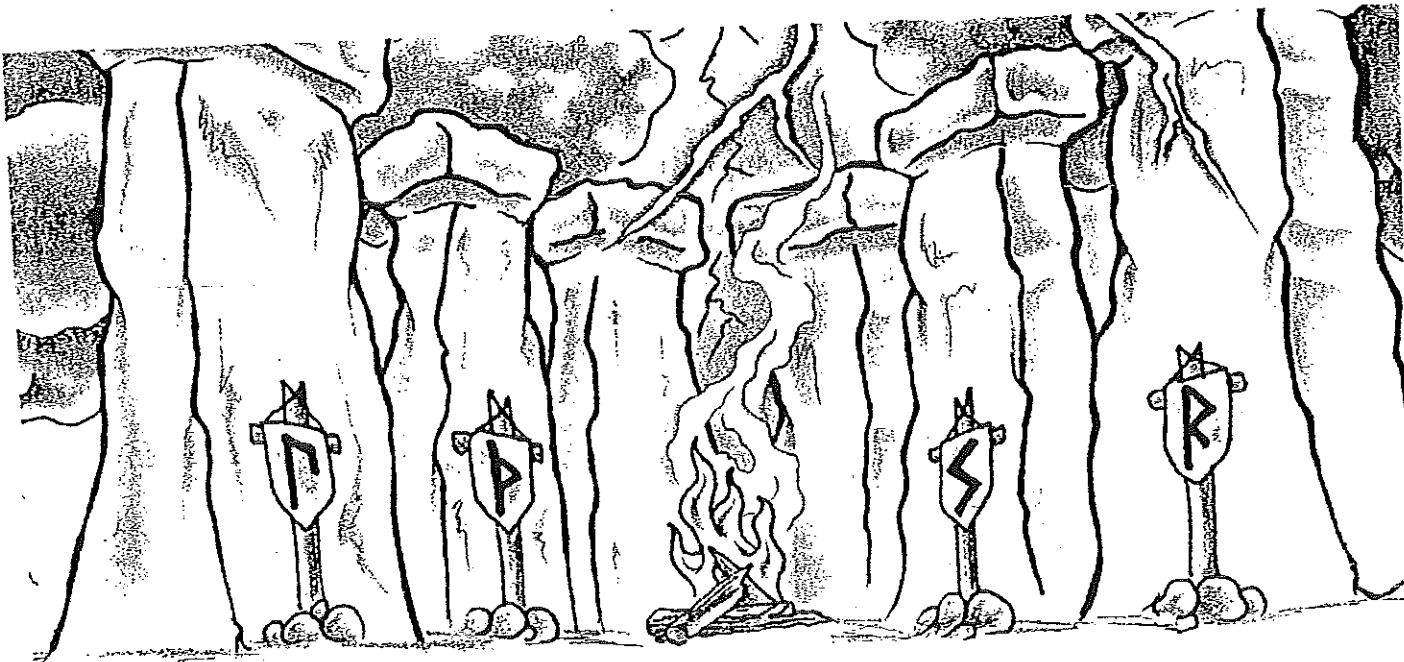
Prisoners are now enjoying increased rights to utilize land specifically for ritual purposes. The aboriginal peoples were the first to win this step within the various prison systems, having sweat lodges built and used for their purification ceremonies. In a growing number of federal institutions, Hof's are actually being erected on the land set aside for this use.

Many *freeworld* kindreds do not have private land available, but do have access to local parks, state and national forests, and as a result, a growing number of sacred groves are springing up across Vinland.

It is the National Prison Kindred Alliance's policy to advocate and promote the use of land set aside exclusively for Odinists to conduct rituals. Our ancestors worshipped out of doors, and while it is available, we should, too.

In regard to how to set up your sacred ground or grove, there are several varying formulas for this. For more information on this we refer the reader to the booklet entitled Land Reclaiming, published by the Temple of Wotan and Himminbjorg Publishing, Inc., though in our second volume, we will be including a section on sacred places and worship areas.

For more information on this see the Religious Land Use and Incarcerated Persons Act, signed by President Bill Clinton before his term expired.



Ritual Implements



When performing any Blot, ritual tools, implements, or artifacts are quite helpful. These artifacts contain much religious significance and symbolically define and separate the ritual site from any mundane or Christian influence. A listing of ritual implements or artifacts used in many blotar is found below:

1. ALTAR, also known as Stallr, Harrow or Hoarg.
2. ALTAR CLOTH
3. MEADHORN, also known as Drekkjarhorn or drinking horn
4. BOWLI, also known as hlautbowli
5. RUNE STAFF
6. GANDR
7. HALLOWING HAMMER
7. STAGHORN
8. SWORD
9. BRISINGAMEN
10. OATH RING
11. STATUARY
12. BANNERS, FLAGS, ETC.

1. ALTAR: Ideally the Odinist Altar is made of natural stone or wood. It can be located out of doors in a grove or in an area specifically set aside for Odinist worship. If a natural stone or wood Altar is unavailable a table or something of that sort can be used in its place. The Altar should be large enough to properly accommodate the Meadhorn, Bowli, rune staff, hammer, etc.

Many households and garths have a family stallr in their home, and this makes a fine place for sacred items to rest when not in use during blotar and other ritual.

(Note: The Hearth of Yggdrasil, OR, like many other kindreds, hearths, etc. usually uses a log at their favorite site in a county park)

2. ALTAR CLOTH: If your kindred has a large stone or wood Altar that has runes and power sigils carved into it then you may not require an Altar cloth. The proper Altar cloth can help to transform an ordinary table into a desirable Odinist Altar.

3. MEADHORN: The ceremonial Meadhorn is the vessel containing the sacrificial Mead. The ceremonial Meadhorn needs to be a fairly large size, and should be decorated appropriately. Preferably the kindred will also have various smaller Meadhorns to be used personally by those in attendance of the Blot if need be. It should also be noted that this horn is not meant for social drinking or everyday use, as it is considered to be a sacred vessel.

4. BOWLI: The Bowli is used in the act of blessing the folk with the sacrificial Mead. It can be made of wood, bronze, brass or silver, and shall be decorated with runes or power sigils. The Bowli should be about a quart in size, or bigger.

5. RUNE STAFF: The Rune staff is a hallowing artifact and is widely used in the Temple of Wotan Blotar. It is especially sacred to Odin. Rune staffs are most commonly made of Oak or Ash, though Yew is also quite appropriate when available. The size varies somewhat but should be at least 36" in length and 2-3" in diameter. They can be rounded or octagonal, and will have the entire Elder Futhark engraved into them.

6. HALLOWING HAMMER: The ceremonial hammer is used for a variety of purposes, and is essential to Odinist worship. The hammer should be at least a foot high and is usually made of

Oak or Ash. The hallowing hammer is sacred to Thor and should be decorated appropriately.

7. STAGHORN: The Staghorn is used in the Frey Blot and is, of course, sacred to Frey. The horn should have at least three prongs, and can have the appropriate runes engraved on it. A pair of resembling horns is most preferred. In some cases, a crown or hat of two staghorns has been used by the officiating gothar.

8. SWORD: Swords are sacred to Tyr and are used in the Tyr Blot, or for swearing oaths on. Swords will vary in size and length, but should be at least 36" in length. Prison kindreds can substitute either a wooden or cardboard (stiff) sword in place of an authentic sword.

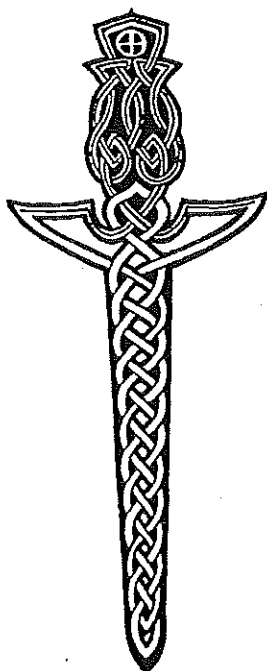
9. BRISINGAMEN: The Brisingamen is an Amber necklace used in worship of Freya. The necklaces vary in style and size; some have a small hammer amulet attached.

10. OATH RING: The Oath Ring is a highly desirable component of our faith, and having an oath ring available at blotar gives opportunity for participants to make holy oaths as a part of the proceedings. Oath Rings are commonly made of brass, bronze, or wood. Some of silver or gold have been made, but they are rather expensive. The more popular is wood, usually of oak, ash or yew, and will have the Elder Futhark either engraved, carved or burned into it.

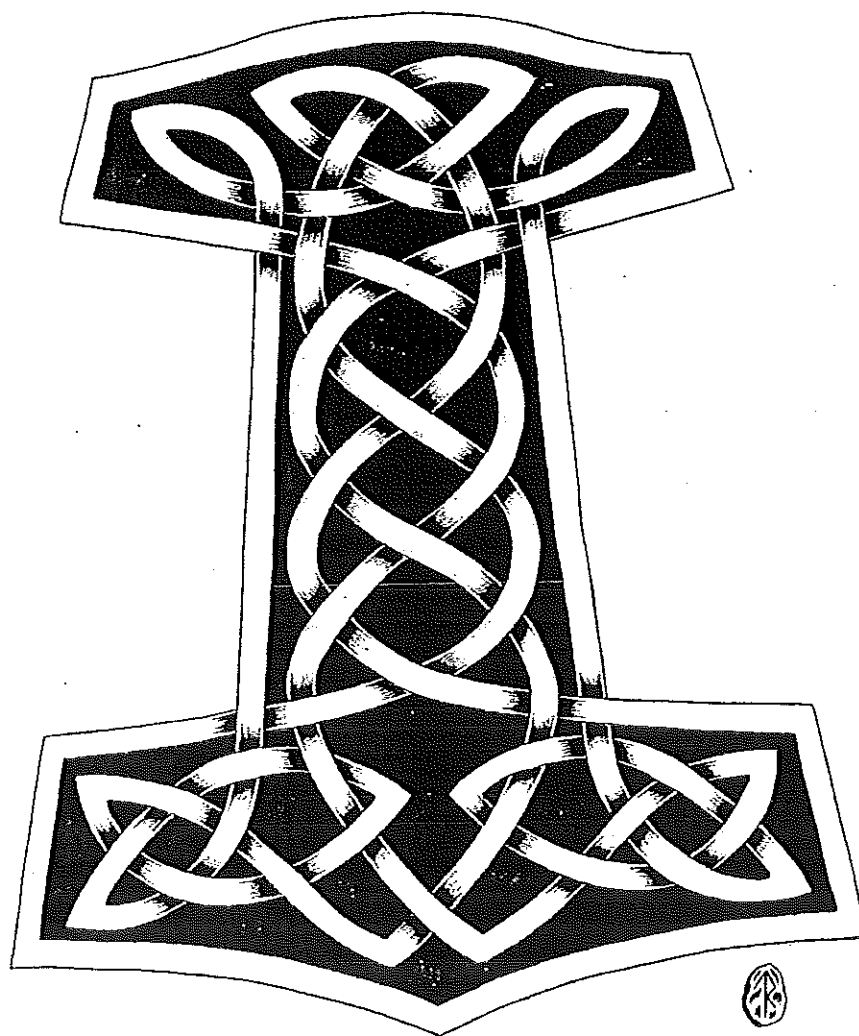
11. STATUARY: Statues of the Gods & Goddesses appropriate to the blot are encouraged. They can be used as points of focus, or symbolic images of the deities to which sacrifice is being made.

12. BANNERS, FLAGS, ETC.: Rune banners can be used to help hallow the ritual area, as well as to put emphasis on the fact that this is indeed an Odinist ritual site. Various flags can be used for the same purpose.

The above listing, by no means, constitutes all of the ritual artifacts necessary for Odinist worship. For example: most Altars will have an Oath ring found on them as well as a set of the Elder Futhark runes. Statues of the Gods/Goddesses are desired as well as wooden sunwheels, etc. As your kindred grows so will your collection of ritual artifacts.



Significance Notes



Is the formula we use for a blot somewhere in the lore, or is it totally made up? If it's made up, how was it constructed?

It is taken from the Heimskringla, specifically chapter 16, which you can read below from the Samuel Lang translation:

16. ABOUT SACRIFICES.

Sigurd, earl of Hlader, was one of the greatest men for sacrifices, and so had Hakon his father been; and Sigurd always presided on account of the king at all the festivals of sacrifice in the Thronhjem country. It was an old custom, that when there was to be sacrifice all the bondes should come to the spot where the temple stood and bring with them all that they required while the festival of the sacrifice lasted. To this festival all the men brought ale with them; and all kinds of cattle, as well as horses, were slaughtered, and all the blood that came from them was called "hlaut", and the vessels in which it was collected were called hlaut-vessels. Hlaut-staves were made, like sprinkling brushes, with which the whole of the altars and the temple walls, both outside and inside, were sprinkled over, and also the people were sprinkled with the blood; but the flesh was boiled into savoury meat for those present. The fire was in the middle of the floor of the temple, and over it hung the kettles, and the full goblets were handed across the fire; and he who made the feast, and was a chief, blessed the full goblets, and all the meat of the sacrifice. And first Odin's goblet was emptied for victory and power to his king; thereafter, Niord's and Freyja's goblets for peace and a good season. Then it was the custom of many to empty the brage-goblet (1); and then the guests emptied a goblet to the memory of departed friends, called the remembrance goblet. Sigurd the earl was an open-handed man, who did what was very much celebrated; namely, he made a great sacrifice festival at Hlader of which he paid all the expenses. Kormak Ogmundson sings of it in his ballad of Sigurd: --

"Of cup or platter need has none
The guest who seeks the generous one, --
Sigurd the Generous, who can trace
His lineage from the giant race;
For Sigurd's hand is bounteous, free, --
The guardian of the temples he.
He loves the gods, his liberal hand
Scatters his sword's gains o'er the land--"

That is pretty much the primary source.

Welgal

In the Clergy course, we go into a bit more on developing ritual (it's one of our primary jobs writing, creating, performing them ... though anyone can be Liturgist if they wish) going into things like types of ritual (Celebratory, Folk-Binding, Goal-Driven, Initiatory, Devotional) the "Ritual Voice," a little touch on one's performance skills (hey, theatre *did* come out of religious practice), calling and "speaking" with the God/desses, ancestors and wights in a ritual context, what do when things go wrong, and then focus on the Rites of Need (Marriage, Namings, Funerals, etc.) and the Blessings of the Year (this is pretty general as when I celebrate "spring" is a bit earlier than say Nova Scotia).

Anyroad, my point is that the basics are extremely simple; all else is getting us to the point and in the mood to connect with whatever focus the rite is on. My Kindred sat down and came up with a format that we liked. Same with anybody else. As long as the primary function of the blot is done, really if you want dancing, singing, feathers, burning things and what have you, if it accomplishes what you want well then your doing it right.

I'd more than happily send you some stuff on how I personally do things, and even look over some of your stuff for pointers but really, if it works for you to connect with the God/desses, Ancestors and Wights to do the blot then you got it down. I've heard of people doing a blot as a "tea," as a party, as theatre, simply sitting and even martial arts or exercise. If you do for a group, there may be a bit more pomp but if something works for your group then well, if ain't fixed

Blot: links man to Aesir & Vanir

Blots are mentioned frequently in the sagas, though few give details of how the sacrifices were done. An exception is *Eyrbyggja Saga*, which describes a blot in some detail. Though the authenticity and antiquity of the passage are debated, it's the best source we've got, and the form of modern blots derives from it (though local variations are common). The purpose of the blot:

- Devotional or votive; no "powers".
- Toast the Aesir & Vanir and share the drink with them.
- "A gift demands a gift."
- Renews contract and kin bonds with the gods.

A. Basic Blot

This is really IT.

Done daily, at need. Ad hoc.

1. Dedicate some food and/or drink to the As or Wan du jour.
2. Have some; share it with the As or Wan du jour (e.g. libate).

B. Typical Communal Blot

Embellished to make into a public ceremony.

1. Mark the beginning.

Role of the gothi.

a. Activity

- chanting, shouting, ringing, or banging

b. Purpose

- Purely structural.
- To mark beginning of structured activity.

2. Hallow the space.

a. Activity

- Hammer rite or equivalent

b. Purpose

- To mark the space as holy (temporary, symbolic)
- To remind us of our contracts with the gods.

3. Set the stage.

a. Activity

- State purpose of ritual
- Give historical context of ritual
- Inspirational reading

b. Purpose

- Practical (to inform participants)
- To tie the ritual into the fabric of history and of the community

4. Invitation

a. Activity

- Invite the presence or ask the assistance of appropriate Aesir & Vanir

b. Purpose

- To invite the Aesir & Vanir to participate.
- To review the terms of the contract.

5. Share drink.

Role of the Valkyrie.

a. Activity

- Hallow horn. (Dedicate to appropriate As or Wan.)

- Toast As or Wan.
- Pass around the horn.

b. Purpose

- To share hospitality with the gods.

c. Important and common variations:

- Each participant makes his or her own toast as the horn is passed.
- Pass the horn around three times if the group is small enough.

6. Give the gift to the gods.

a. Activity

- Sprinkle hlaut or pour into bowl.
- Libate.

b. Purpose

- Renew the contract.
- "A gift demands a gift."

7. Mark the closing.

a. Activity

- Announce, shout, leave, ...

b. Purpose

- Purely structural.
- To signal return to spontaneous activity.

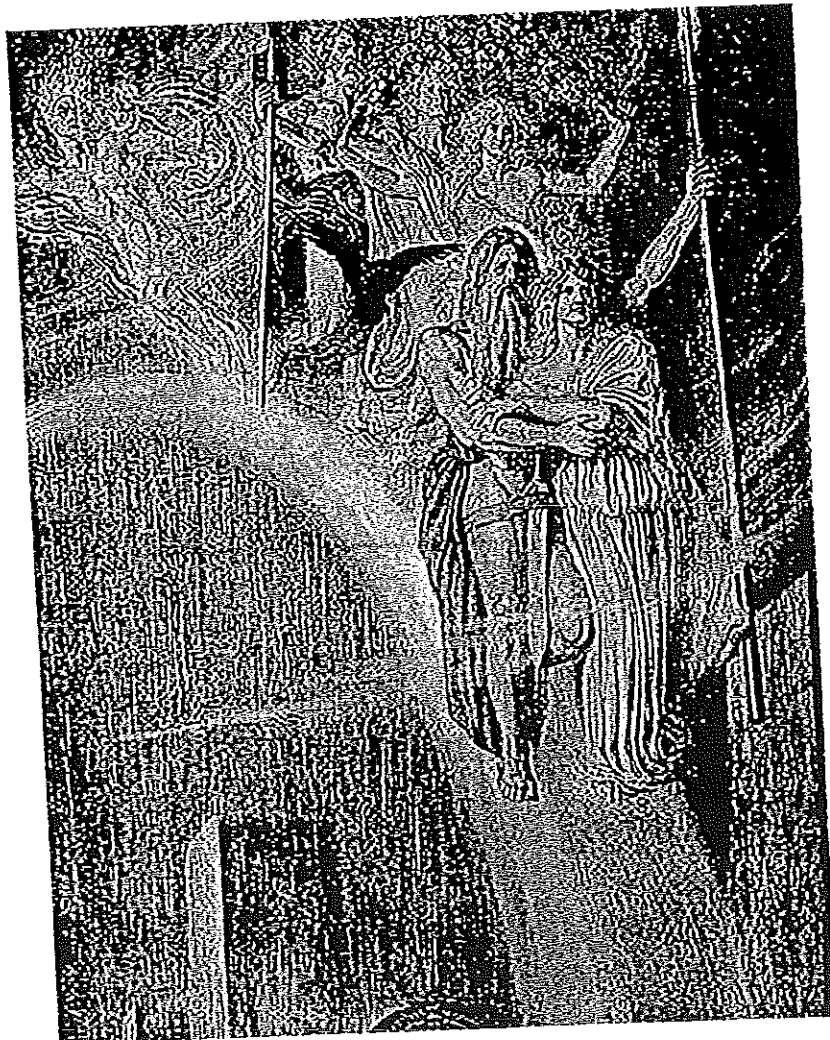
8. Feast.

C. Blot etiquette

- The event is in honor of the Aesir and Vanir. Only. Other gods are groovy, but this party is not for them.
- Take no more than one sip when you get the horn.
- If the horn is nearly empty, tell the Valkyrie, so it can be refilled. The last drink is for the gods.
- You may kiss the horn if you prefer not to drink.
- If someone shouts "Hail, <As, Wan, or Hero>!", echo the shout. If someone shouts "Hail, <something long and complicated>", echo with a plain "Hail!".
 - Exception #1: If someone hails something that seems wrong (their car, god from the wrong pantheon, a mass murderer, e.g.), don't echo the hail.

- Exception #2: If someone shouts, "Hail, Ragnar!", you should echo "Hail, Ragnar's Beard!".
- If you are given the chance to make a toast during a blot:
 - Keep it short, focused, on topic, and tasteful. And short.
 - You should toast the As or Wan du jour the first time you touch the horn. You can get by with toasting any of the Aesir or Vanir.
 - "Hail the gods!" is an excellent, all-purpose toast.
 - Don't toast Loki, son of Laufey.
 - If you are given more chances to toast and are not sure what to do, copy a "native", ask (really, it's okay), or stick with the Aesir & Vanir.

Rod





AUNTIE AUDHUMLA'S

Guide to Norse Feasting



The Sumbel, or Minnesweig, is a party to which one invites the gods. It is an ancient practice, sometimes combined with a feast or sacrificial meal, with analogues in the Greek symposium and the Wiccan cakes and wine (as well as the Christian communion and Jewish Passover), and the Afro-diasporic ceremonies in which the orishas are offered a mangé, or feast, along with the dancing. In ancient times, the practice of minnesweig (drinking the memory ale) could be part of the great tribal celebrations or domestic worship, an elaborate feast or a simple passing of the cup.

As practiced by Hrafnar, sumbel occurs in the context of the major seasonal feasts. Winternights, in the fall (mid October) opens the new year and the winter season (combining aspects of Harvest and Samhain). It was dedicated to the alfar and/or disir. Hrafnar takes it as an opportunity to focus on the alfar (male ancestors and heroes) and the gods. The Midwinter Feast was held in honor of Freyr, Thor and Odhinn. At this time we ask them to give us good seasons. Modranicht (Mother Night) was also a Yuletide festival. Hrafnar may celebrate either or both of these or honor Thor (Thunderman), depending on the drought situation and the December party/ritual schedule. In Sweden, the disir were honored in February, and Hrafnar takes this opportunity to focus on the disir (female ancestors/guardian spirits), and the goddesses. At the Spring Feast in April (combining aspects of the Spring Equinox and Beltane), we honor the goddess Ostara and the major Aesir and Asynjur. All these feasts are held indoors, and are essentially domestic rituals. However our Midsummer feast in June is held in Utgard -- outside in Tilden Park, when we take advantage of good weather to make offerings to the powers of nature, the Jotnar and the landvættir.

Logically, we ought also to have some kind of festival in August or September (possibly a harvest celebration drawing on English folklore), but so far we, like the Norse, have been too busy during that season to formalize it. In a traditional setting, folk journeyed for days to get to the steading where the feast would be held and stayed a week or more. The feast itself could easily take a night and a day, with time for recovery. So long as we have to fit our feasting into a busy work schedule, we will have to curtail our natural desire to invoke everyone in sight, and spread our worship out so that over the year everyone gets a chance to honor and be honored.

Feasters load up their plates at the beginning of the feast, which helps people relax and provides the fuel to get through the evening. When the alfar and disir are being honored, each participant fills a horn or cup with something appropriate, and (briefly) salutes his/her ancestors of the flesh and/or spirit, lifts the cup, and drinks. All may lift their cups in honor and echo with "Velsigning..."

The first invocation of each round for the gods gives everyone an opportunity to meditate on the deity being called. Then an appropriate chant is begun. As the horn goes around, each participant may bless it (with palm outstretched over the mouth of the horn or by making the sign of the hammer with closed fist), charging it with energy. You can also draw the appropriate rune over the horn. A further variation would be to draw the rune on something like a cake of hard chocolate and scrape it into the drink. The worshipper may then murmur his or her own invocation and prayer and drink to the god, saying "Hail X". When the presence of the god/dess is felt, some may say, "Velsigning, X..."

The invocations are serious, but not solemn. You may move about during the rounds, get more food, or even talk softly, but avoid making distracting movements during an invocation. When the horn has gone around the circle, the remainder is poured into a bowl or over the hǫrg stone for the gods, to be returned to the earth in offering.

Sending the horn around gives the worshipper an opportunity to experience the presence of each deity and to pray at a moment when the deity is especially accessible. In return s/h

gives energy. A participant (usually the first invoker) who is experienced in possessory work and is deeply involved with a given deity may find him/herself carrying the energy of the god. A full possession in which the "horse" loses all self-awareness is probably not desirable in sumbel, however a strong over-shadowing can add a great deal to the intensity of the experience. Individual communications may take place, or the god (especially FreyR) may want to dance.

Follow your instincts in interacting with those who are carrying god-energy -- go with the experience if it feels right -- if it doesn't, decline. If you find yourself moving into a state of consciousness you are not ready for, touch the floor, eat or drink something, ask someone to help you ground. To bring people out of trance, we give them water to drink or salt to taste, sprinkle them with water, blow in their ears, etc. If someone near you is trancing, be ready to assist or protect them, ask if they need help, etc. Do not, however, interrupt an experience the subject wants to continue.

The beverage used depends on the deity. Mead is usually the drink of choice, but many of the god/desses are just as happy with sparkling or plain apple cider, water, or milk. Other deities may prefer ale or beer, or wine. The "high" experienced in sumbel is distinct from the usual effects of alcohol. When charged by god-energy, even a non-alcoholic beverage such as apple juice becomes inebriating. If you have a cold, after blessing the horn in the usual way pour a little liquid into your own goblet or horn. The horn may be blessed and passed without drinking as well.

The style of invocation used depends on the worshipper and the deity. Some are conversational, some incantatory. Invocations may be written ahead of time, but during the sumbel they should be memorized rather than read. What you lose in polish is gained in intensity. The prayers made by worshippers in the circle as the horn goes around may be as intense or polished as the invocation, but are usually shorter. A collection of written invocations for various deities is available for personal meditation, as models, and for inspiration.

Participation is enhanced if you dress in festival clothing (but it should be comfortable) and bring feasting gear. Invoking requires a large drinking horn, available unfinished from Tandy's. Such horns can be completed fairly easily by sanding with increasingly fine grades of sandpaper, sealing, and fitting with leather straps. Large goblets can also be used. A smaller goblet, tankard, or horn is also useful for water or a non-alcoholic drink to toast with if you don't wish to imbibe whatever is currently going around. For eating, wooden plates and bowls from Cost+ are attractive (burn your name on the bottom with a wood-burning tool). Another choice is a paper plate on a wicker platter, available at the grocery store. Pewter or tinware from the Renaissance Faire or elsewhere are also good choices. In addition, you will need a cloth napkin, an eating dagger, a spoon and fork or forchette. Many keep their gear in a wooden box or wicker picnic hamper which can be used as a table if you are sitting on the ground or floor.

It is a good idea to bring a bottle of whatever you like to drink, as well as a bottle for the deity if you will be invoking. Food for the feasts usually features a main dish appropriate to the festival -- roast pork for the Vanir, for instance, or rabbit for Ostara. Other appropriate foods are those characteristic of Germanic culture -- barley, pickled cabbage, sausage dishes, and traditional recipes. Bread and butter, rye crackers, cheeses, and pickled herring are good finger foods. For sweets, European fruits (especially apples), pies and pastries are all appropriate. Feeding the folk gets expensive, and it is appreciated if those attending contribute or call to ask what they can bring.

Skaal!

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Holy Days, Festivals and Remembrances





Asatru Holidays

yule

Yule is the most important holiday of the year. Everyone is familiar with the shortness of the deep winter days, but in the Scandinavian countries this is of even greater importance. At the Yuletide there is almost no sunlight at all, and the climate would have people bound in their homes waiting for the return of Spring. Yule is a long festival, traditionally held to be 12 days or more. After Yule the days began to get longer and the festival represented the breaking of the heart of winter and the beginning of the new year. Yule was the holiday of either Thor or Frey, although there is no reason not to honor both Gods in modern practice.

Frey is the God of fertility and farming and was honored at Yule in the hopes that his time would soon return. Frey is also an important God at this time as shown in the myth "The Wooing of Gerd." Gerd is Frey's wife, and she was once a frost giant. Frey had seen her while he was seated on Odin's High Seat, and was utterly taken by her, but she would not yield until Skirnir, Frey's messenger or perhaps Frey in disguise, threatened her with an eternity of cold. In this way, Frey brings back the summer times by wooing a daughter of cold and frost. His love for her brings warmth to her heart and to the land.

Thor's position at Yule is a bit more savage. He is the sworn enemy of the Frost Giants and Jotnar who rule the winter months, and as such is honored as the God who's actions fight off these creatures and bring back the spring. The most important symbols of Yule are still with us today. Most of the supposedly secular customs of Christmas are actually Pagan in origin. Evergreen trees and holly, which remained green throughout the long nights and cold, were a promise that spring would once again return to the land. These symbols may also have been a connection to the nature spirits who have sway over the return of the warm days. The modern conception of Santa Claus as an elf, for whom offerings of milk and cookies are left, is possibly a modern continuation of leaving offerings for the Alfar and other nature spirits. The idea of children staying up all night in the hopes of catching a glimpse of Santa Claus may be a remnant of people staying awake to mark the long night and remind the sun to return. (In the latter case it's considered an adequate substitution to leave a candle going all night to light the way for the returning sun.)

Yule is a weeks long festival, not just a single holiday. The Yule season begins on the solstice, which is the Mother Night of Yule, and ends with Twelfth Night/New Years. As a point of interest, January seventh is St. Dystaff's day, which Nigel Pennick has suggested may have been a day sacred to Frigg, whose symbol is the distaff. While one might expect a rather dour theme to a holiday held in the darkness and cold, Yule is a time of feasting and gladness. The most important custom at Yule for modern Pagan is the swearing of Yule oaths.

There are simply so many different Yule customs, both ancient and modern, that one has almost limitless possibilities even when staying within Scandinavian and Germanic customs. In modern practice one might honor Sunna on the Mother Night, then hold a blot a few days later to Thor, a feast for New Years day which is shared with the house and land spirits, and then finish on Twelfth Night with a ritual to Frey, whose time is then officially beginning.

SUMMER FINDING

Summer Finding is also known to many groups as Ostara, the holiday sacred to the Goddess for whom the modern Easter is named. She is a fertility Goddess and her symbols are the har

and the egg. She was an important Goddess of spring to the ancient Saxons, but we know little else of her other than this. Some have suggested that Ostara is merely an alternate name for Frigg or Freya, but neither of these Goddesses seem to have quite the same fertility function as Ostara does. Frigg seems too "high class" to be associated with such an earthy festival and Freya's form of fertility is more based on eroticism than reproduction. The obvious folk tradition at this time of year involves eggs. These were colored as they are today, but then they were buried, or more appropriately, planted in the earth. Some have suggested that the act was purely magical; the fertility of the eggs would then be transferred from the animal realm to the plant realm and would increase the prosperity of the harvest. It's also possible that they were left as an offering to the alfar and the spirits of the plants. In any case a blot should be prepared to the Goddess of Spring, however one wishes to honor her, and also to the spirits of the land.

MIDSUMMER DAY

The summer solstice was second only to Yule in importance to the ancient Northmen. Some groups mark this day as sacred to Balder, but we disagree with this. While Balder can be seen as a dying and resurrected Sun God, in the mythology we are most familiar with, he does not return to life until Ragnarok and it seems like "bad karma" to symbolically kill the sun when you know Baldr doesn't come back until the end of the world. Instead, we mark this day as sacred to the Goddess Sunna, who is literally the sun. One idea for midsummer is to remain awake all night and mark the shortest night of the year, then at sunrise to perform a "Greeting of Sunna" and a blot to her. Another midsummer custom is the rolling of a flaming wagon wheel down a hill to mark the turning of the wheel of the year. If fire would otherwise be a hazard, one could parade a wheel covered with candles for similar effect. It is also a time for general merriment and in the Scandinavian countries many of what we know as the traditional May Day rituals such as May Poles and Morris Dances were celebrated at Midsummer rather than in May.

WINTER FINDING

I have not come across a great deal of distinctive traditional lore about the Autumn Equinox that would distinguish it from the Harvest festivals found worldwide. It seems to have been overshadowed to some extent by the Winter Nights which we celebrate at the equinox rather than at the more traditional time of mid-November. Winter Finding should be treated as a general harvest festival. Whichever Gods you invoke for fertility of the land would be most appropriate to invoke again at this time. We have honored Frey & Freya and Nerthus & Njord for this purpose. You can take your pick. Even more so than other holidays, a large feast is appropriate at this time, perhaps concentrating on local vegetables and grains more than meat.

WINTER NIGHTS

The Winter Nights are the traditional festival honoring the Disir or family spirits. It is a time to remember your family, the dead, and your ancestors. A Freya blót may be performed at this time as Freya is known as the Vanadis (i.e. the Dis of the Vanir) or the Great Dis, and she seems to be the Goddess of the Disir themselves. This is probably connected to Freya's position as recipient of half the battle-slain or her ability with seidhr. One might also simply want to honor the Disir as a whole, or attempt to summon and pour offering to your own

family's Dis. A sumbel which toasts ones ancestors and passed on friends would also be in order. If a feast is held, it should be quiet and respectful of the character of the season. Another idea is a silent "mum feast," a custom which is found the world over. The various Halloween customs such as dressing in costume or celebrating this time as a time where the worlds of the living and the dead connect are more Celtic in origin than Nordic and probably should not be part of an Asatru celebration.

einherjar

The other major holiday celebrated by virtually every Asatru group around the world is Einherjar, or the feast of the fallen. This is held on November 11, Armistice or Veterans Day, and honors those who have fallen in battle and joined Odin's warriors in Valhalla. We generally hold a quiet ritual and honor our ancestors and relatives who have died in war or served. We also honor those who have given their lives for our country.

JANUARY 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR RAUD THE STRONG.

King Olaf Tryggvason of Norway executed Raud by making him swallow a snake. His crime was refusing to give up Asatru. Tryggvason then confiscated Raud's land and all his other wealth. Praise Raud by lifting a horn (or cup or glass) in his honor, and by doing something deliberate to spread the religion King Olaf tried so hard to stamp out.

JANUARY 22 -- THORRABLOT.

Coming in the depths of winter, when we all need our spirits lifted, Thorrablot is our obvious antidote to the blues. Thor is its cheery, gregarious patron. Build a snow statue of the hammer-wielding God, or go winter camping, or have a party. Take a walk without your coat, mentally accept winter, and go back to your house for a shot of brandy.

FEBRUARY 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR EYVIND KINNRIFFI.

Eyvind was another Asatru martyr. King Olaf tortured him to death by placing a bowl of red-hot embers on his stomach. Eyvind died, and Valhalla received another hero. Salute his courage the same way you did that of Raud the Strong.

FEBRUARY 14 - FESTIVAL OF VALI.

Valentine's Day? Nor really...rather, a day devoted to Vali, a God connected with rebirth. Meditate on the following question for Vali: If we are born again into the family line, as our ancestors thought, how should this affect our actions here and now?

March 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OLVIR.

Olvir was a Norwegian who organized sacrifices to the Gods in defiance of King Olaf Tryggvason. When Olaf caught him planning Ostara celebrations, he killed him. Olvir's co-conspirators were murdered, mutilated, exiled, or fined, depending on their degree of complicity. Honor this Asatru martyr by observing Ostara, thus proving that Olaf did not, in the long run, succeed.

March 20 - OSTARA.

Praise this Saxon Goddess of the springtime and the dawn, and revel in the rebirth of life at winter's end. "Easter" is a corruption of Ostara's name, and you can celebrate her day with bunnies, eggs, and the other heathen symbols that usually characterize this holiday.

March 28 - RAGNAR LODBROK DAY.

Ragnar was one of legend's most famous vikings. On this date in the year 845, he raided Paris. It just happened to be Easter Sunday. Toast Ragnar with a raised glass, and read from his saga.

April 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR JARL HAKON OF NORWAY.

Hakon restored the worship of the Gods after it had been suppressed by Christian kings. Recall his virtue by formally renouncing Christ and all his works, or by vigorously exercising any of your guarantees under the Bill of Rights.

April 13 - SUMARSDAG/SIGRBLOT.

This was the first day of summer in the Icelandic calendar. It falls at about the same time as the annual sacrifice to Odin, for success in the upcoming raiding season. Welcome the warm months, and make an offering to the Father of Victory!

April 30 - WALBURG.

This Teutonic Goddess safeguards the dead heroes who sleep in the burial mound, and harbors deeds yet to bear fruit. Pour a libation to the bold ones awaiting rebirth, and think on how your own acts will live after you.

May 1 - MAY DAY.

From the gloom of Walburg we enter the sunshine of May Day. Think on Freya, take a walk in the forest or send flowers to a friend.

May 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR GUTHROTH.

This Norwegian martyr spoke out against the tyranny of the Christian fanatic Tryggvason, and urged others to resist him. For this, the king had his tongue cut out. Call an Asa-friend today - use your tongue to participate in Asatru!

JUNE 8 - LINDISFARNE DAY.

In the year 793, three Norwegian dragon ships raided the monastery at Lindisfarne, officially starting the Viking Age. Toast them with your favorite beverage and leaf through a good book about our sea-wolf ancestors.

JUNE 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR SIGURD THE VOLSUNG.

No Teutonic hero outshines Sigmund's noble son. His courage and nobility won him fame shining through the centuries. Recall his glory by listening to Wagner's Ring operas, or by doing something generous, in imitation of Sigurd's goodness of heart.

JUNE 21 - MIDSUMMER.

This is the sun's moment of greatest glory, and the time of longest daylight. After today, the sun's decline begins. Decorate your house with sunwheels, and burn a candle in her honor.

JULY 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR UNN THE DEEP MINDED.

Unn was a strong-willed matriarch who established dynasties in the Orkneys, Faroes, and Iceland. Do something to make your family line stronger and more permanent. Recall the deep-minded women of your clan today.

AUGUST 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR KING RADBOD.

This Frisian king ejected Christian missionaries and upheld Asatru in his country against great pressure. Pour a libation to the ancient Frisian Goddess Friagabi, "Giver of Freedom." Like Radbod, you can renounce the alien faith. Here are some words reversing the Christian oath

the Saxons were made to swear: "I forsake the Christian God, and I forsake all worship of him, and I renounce all his works! I take up the words and work and worship of our Gods and Goddesses, of Thor and Odin and Tyr and all who are their companions!"

SEPTEMBER 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR HERMAN OF THE CHERUSCI.

Herman learned the art of war under the Romans, and then deserted the Imperial eagles to lead his tribe in revolt against the Mediterranean intruders. In the fall of the year 9, he annihilated three legions in the Teutobergerwald, a victory that saved Germania from Roman occupation. Plant an oak tree, eat in a German restaurant, and remember Herman with a glass of fine beer from the Fatherland.

SEPTEMBER 22 - WINTER EQUINOX.

Also called Winter Finding, this is the time when day and night are of equal length. Today is a harvest festival, and you can celebrate it with a meal at which you express thanks to the Gods for the powers of the soil. Raise a horn of your favorite drink to the Freya, and to her brother Frey.

OCTOBER 8 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ERIK THE RED.

In addition to being father of Leif Eriksson, Erik was a stalwart fan of the strongest of the Gods, Thor. Recall Leif's sire with a toast, and by praising Thor for such robust Vikings. Do something for a friend, in imitation of Thor, friendliest of the Gods!

OCTOBER 9 - LEIF ERIKSON DAY.

No, it's not a religious occasion per se, but it is a great opportunity to boost Nordic culture. However, lots of people don't know that President Johnson established this observance back in 1965 - so you'll have to tell them. Inform several of your acquaintances, and write a letter to your local newspaper boasting of our Viking heritage (Don't attack Columbus, though).

OCTOBER 14 - WINTER NIGHTS.

This date on our calendar is in honor of the *disir*, female fertility spirits ruled over by Freya. Our female ancestors are also counted among the *disir*, so this is a good time to recall outstanding women in your family line. Do you have photos of them you can look at? The mood of Winter Nights is one of conserving resources against the scarcities of the coming cold season. A libation of ale, milk, or mead is traditionally poured onto the earth as an offering to the *disir*.

NOVEMBER 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR QUEEN SIGRITH.

Sigrith, the widow of King Erik the Victorious of Sweden, was offered marriage by Olaf Tryggvason...on the condition that she become a Christian. She refused, saying "I do not mean to abandon the faith I have had, and my kinsmen before me." Olaf swore at her and struck her with a glove, an act she repaid years later when she incited the battle in which Olaf died. Do five things for Asatru, one for each finger of Olaf's glove. Meditate on the qualities of a suitable mate.

NOVEMBER 11 - FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR.

These are the chosen heroes who sit in Odin's hall.. Honor your dead kin, or the famous heroes, who gave their lives for family and Folk. Celebrate Veteran's Day. If you have friends or relatives who died in battle, visit their graves. If that is not possible, offer a toast in their memory. Consecrate your personal weapon in a ritual of your devising.

DECEMBER 9 - DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR EGIL SKALLAGRIMSSON.

Warrior, poet, and devout follower of Odin, Egil's complex character is mirrored by the paradoxical nature of his one-eyed mentor among the Gods. Read excerpts from Egil's sag

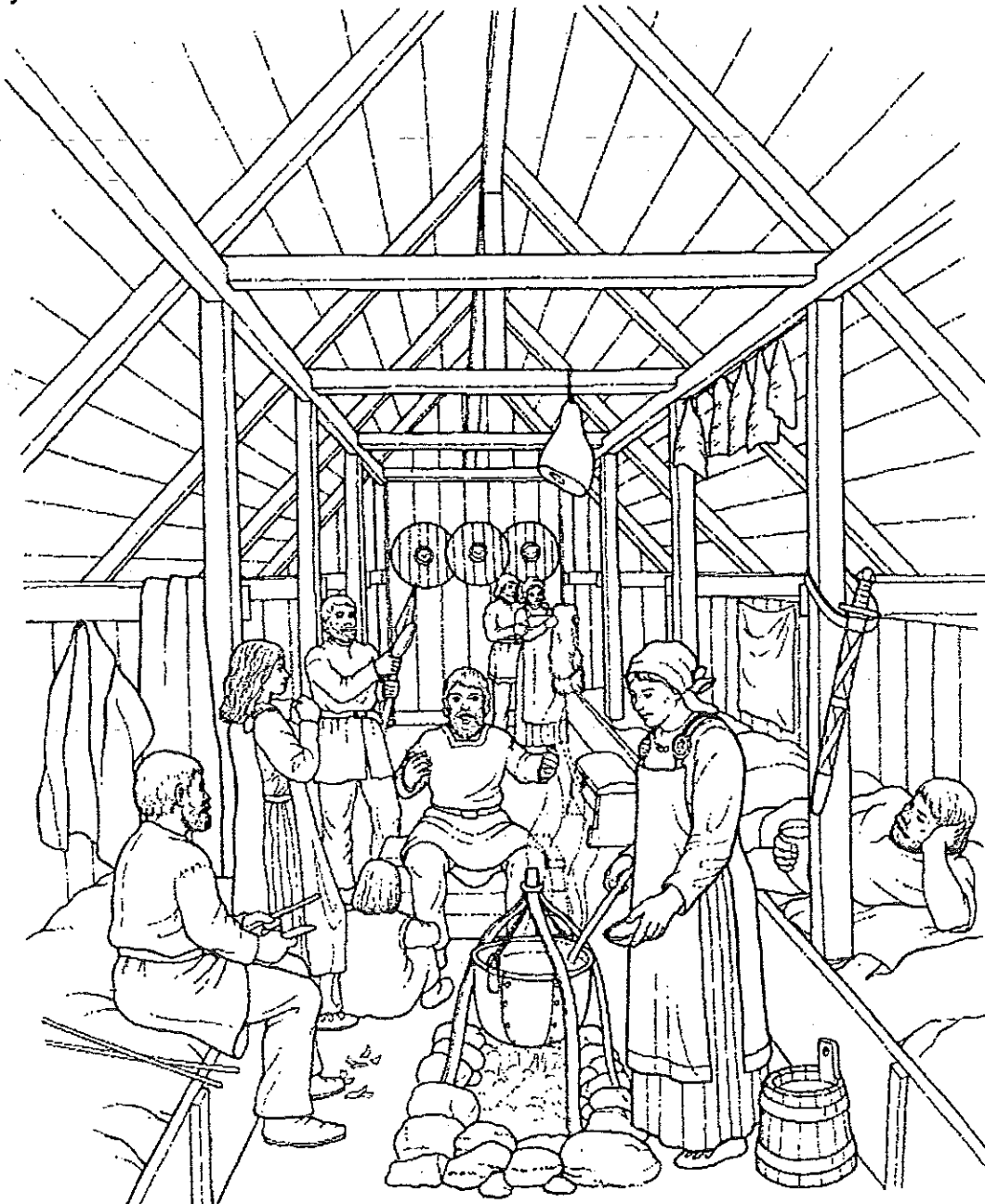
on this day (or look him up in your collection of books on the Vikings). Write a poem, or do something bold!

DECEMBER 21 - MOTHER NIGHT.

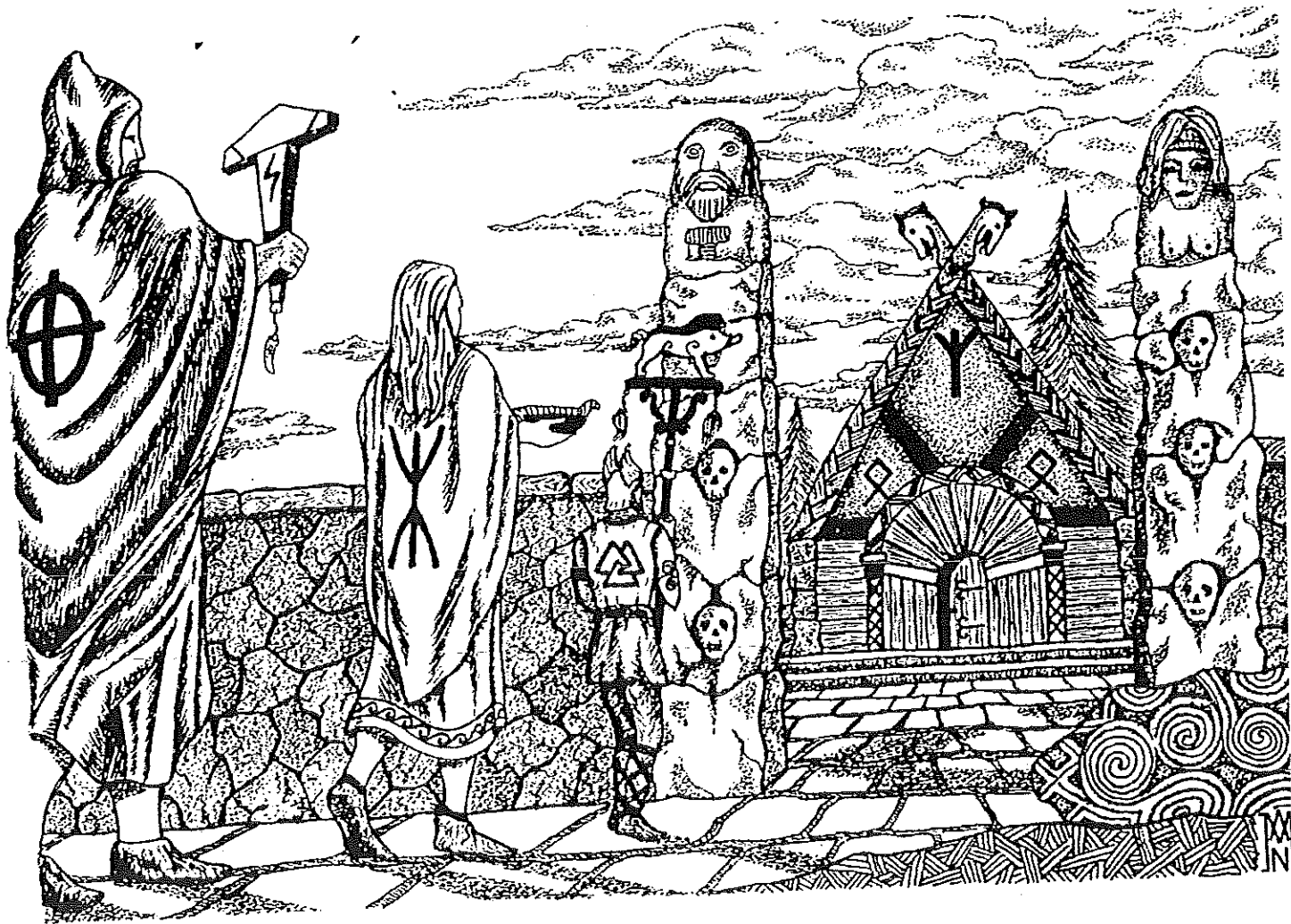
Coming just before the winter solstice, Mother Night is when the new year is born. The traditional twelve days of Yule begin now. This is a season for honoring the family line and rejoicing in the sun's renewal. Celebrate Yule with all the ancient trimmings, such as wreaths of evergreen, a "Christmas" tree, and good cheer. Visit kin. Tell your children family stories and show them photos of their ancestors. Drink a toast to the God Frey, and to the reborn sun.

DECEMBER 31 - TWELFTH NIGHT.

As Mother's Night is the beginning of Yuletide, Twelfth Night is its culmination. Meditate on the past year - what you did, what you wish you had done. Take stock and set a course for the future. Making New Year's resolutions is an old Teutonic custom that goes back at least to the Viking Age, and perhaps much earlier. In the old days, these oaths were sworn on a boar sacred to Frey.



The Temple of Wotan Book of Blotar



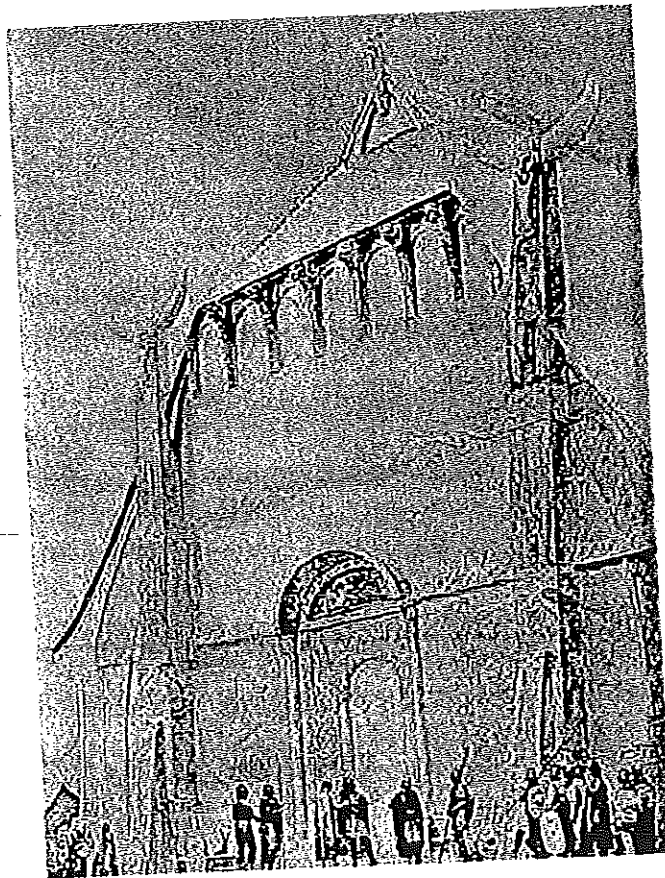


The Temple of Wotan

Founded in 1997, in St. Marie's, Idaho, operations were transferred to Napa, California in 2001, when the retiring Allsherjargydhja, Katuscha Maddox, installed the new Allsherjargodhi, John Post.

In 2002 full guardianship was assumed by Napa when the Temple became an officially recognized religious Corporation by both the State of California and the federal government.

Since that time, the Temple of Wotan has taken an active role in supporting the prison outreach ministry work of the National Prison Kindred Alliance. To date, the Temple has many associate members throughout the world.

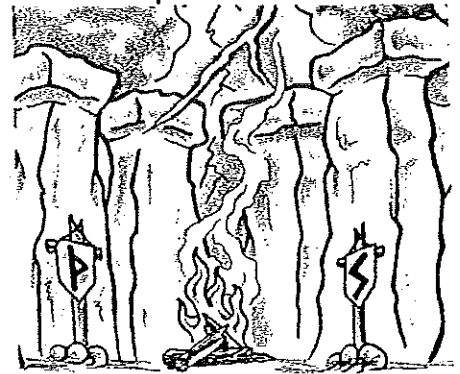


Blotar Structure

The Blot (blood; i.e.-sacrifice) is a ritual aspect of Odinist worship. Offering sacrifice to the ancient Gods/Goddesses was essential to the religion of our Northern European ancestors, just as it is for today's Odinist.

The Blotar found throughout this handbook are designed in a manner to be an aid and a guide for both the newly inspired Odinist as well as to the esteemed Gothi. The Temple of Wotan ceremonies are based on a nine-aspect foundation that remains basically unchanged from Blot to Blot. This is done to help acquaint one with the ritual style and to assist in the act of memorization. The end result being a smooth flowing ceremony that is a pleasure to perform, as well as being an inspiration to those in attendance. The nine-aspect foundation of the Temple of Wotan blotar is listed below:

1. Hammer hallowing.
2. Opening the circle.
3. Consecration.
4. Sacred flame.
5. First reading.
6. Invocation.
7. Second reading.
8. Memory horn.
9. The closing.



When preparing to perform any ritual, one should first familiarize himself with all aspects of the ceremony. A brief breakdown of each of the nine aspects follows:

1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

This aspect serves to both open the ritual and to hallow the ritual site. The festivities begin with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the Altar. The Gothi then enters the circle to observe a moment or two of silence. This is done to still the mind and prepare those present for the rite at hand. He then proceeds to erect a sacred Shield-wall around the site. Beginning at the Northern quarter, the Gothi visualizes a Shield-wall (a wall of either flame or stone) forming while hailing the forces of nature. He then continues in a deosil fashion (clockwork), Completing the circle. Once completed, he returns to the Altar and hammer-signs himself before continuing on to the next aspect of the rite.

NOTE: Many kindreds will have a separate, Shield-wall, Gothi. A Gothi solely dedicated to the act of raising and removing the Shield-wall. This practice is encouraged as it allows for total concentration on the Shield-wall.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

The second aspect of the Blot serves to both hallow the ritual site further (including the folk present) and to direct the energy of those present to the Gods/Goddesses.

The Gothi begins by facing the circle and standing in the Isa stadhagaldr position for a moment or two, concentrating all of his energy on the act of opening the circle. Once he feels that he is ready he will assume the Elhaz form and invoke the appropriate runes. He then calls on the forces to bless and cleanse the gathered folk, and to open the circle to the powers of

the high Gods/Goddesses of Asgard. Once completed, he will hammer sign himself and return to the Altar to prepare for the consecration.

3. CONSECRATION.

Here the Gothi consecrates the Altar as well as the ritual artifacts on the Altar.

Facing the Altar, he makes the sign of the hammer over it with the rune staff while invoking the names: Odin, Baldur, Frey and Thor. He then proceeds with the consecration, holding the staff on high. Once completed, he returns the staff to the Altar and hammer signs himself.

NOTE: Some Gothar may choose to symbolically consecrate the Altar by sprinkling either Mead or salt over it at the end of the consecration. This is entirely the choice of the Gothi performing the ceremony.

4. SACRED FLAMES.

This aspect serves as a final act of hallowing the ritual site while praising the Gods of Valhalla, as well as the kindred itself.

Once the Altar has been consecrated the Gothi turns to face the circle, leaning on his rune staff. He then begins to recite the sacred flames passage. While doing so, his assistant will light either the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles positioned at the four corners of the circle. Both the Gothi and his assistant hammer sign themselves once completed.

5. FIRST READING.

The first reading is done to formally state the purpose of the Blot. This passage is usually read by an assistant, preferably from memory, although memorization is not mandatory. Once completed, the assistant will hammer sign himself before returning to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

In this aspect the Gothi invokes the deities associated with the Blot and offers blessings to the folk.

The invocation begins with the Gothi collecting the ritual artifact (ceremonial hammer, rune staff, etc.) from the Altar. He then turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldri position. With the artifact held high overhead he begins to sing praise to the Gods/Goddesses. He then invokes the deity by calling out the ancient names associated with such. Once completed, he returns to the Altar and replaces the artifact with the ceremonial Meadhorn previously filled with Mead. Once again turning to face the circle, he lifts the horn on high and offers sacrifice, charging the Mead with the powers of the Gods. The Gothi should actually visualize the divine energy flowing into the horn from high above. After a moment or two, the Gothi returns to the Altar. He now pours a small amount of the charged Mead into the Bowl. He then makes the hammer sign over the Bowl. With the Bowl and Evergreen sprig in hand he proceeds deosil around the circle blessing the folk. This is done by dipping the sprig into the Mead and making the sign of Gebo across the chest of the person being blessed. While doing so, the Gothi will say a version of the following:

"WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I LINK THEE TO THE STRENGTH AND WISDOM OF THE MIGHTY VALFATHER. WOTAN HEIL!"

After completing the circle, the Gothi will offer the sprig and Bowl to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Once completed, the Gothi returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar. He

then hammer signs himself and steps to one side of the Altar so that the kindred Skald may come forward to read the second reading.

7. SECOND READING.

Poetry plays a large part in our cultural heritage and it is our tradition to include a poem in all of our Blotar. The seventh aspect, the second reading, is the reading of such a poem.

The kindred Skald, or an appropriate assistant, will now come forward to face the circle, hammer sign himself, and recite the poem. Upon completion, he again hammer signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle. It should be noted that whenever possible, the second reading should be memorized, however this is not mandatory.

8. MEMORY HORN.

This aspect actually incorporates a type of sumbel into each Blot. This is done as a means to honor a chosen deity, and to give the folk an opportunity to drink the charged Mead. The Gothi begins by taking up the Meadhorn and turning to face the circle. He then raises the horn on high, saying a version of the following:

"A TOAST TO THE GODS! WOTANI MIGHTY VAL-FATHER! GREAT GOD OF WISDOM AND OF THE WAYS OF WAR! I RAISE THIS HORN IN YOUR HONOR. WOTAN HAIL!"

After the Gothi has drunk from the horn he, or perhaps his assistant, will carry the horn in a deosil fashion around the circle, offering those present an opportunity to toast the Gods. As he does so he will say a version of the following:

"A TOAST TO THE GODS! DRINK THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. HAIL WOTANI!"

At this point each of the folk will give a toast of their own making, or perhaps just take a drink from the horn, followed by: **"HAIL WOTANI"** Once the round is completed the horn is returned to the Altar. The Gothi will now raise the horn on high and again praise the chosen deity. He will then pour the remaining Mead either on the ground or in the Bowli. He then hammer signs himself before closing the Blot.

NOTE: Some Blotar will call for just one round from the horn during this aspect. Yet others may call for three rounds, thus making the sumbel more formal.

9. THE CLOSING.

This is the aspect serving to formally close the Blot and to remove the Shield-wall. This is done in a fashion to both honor the Gods and the kindred itself.

The Gothi turns to face the circle and while leaning on the rune staff, will say a few words honoring the kindred spirit around him. He will then give the Gods a hearty hail. He then proceeds in a Widdershins (counter-clockwise) fashion to remove the Shield-wall. Beginning at the Western quarter he again assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and hails the forces of nature. While doing so, he visualizes the Shield-wall coming down. Once all four quarters are completed, he returns to the Altar. Turning again to face the circle, he raises his right hand on high and all present join him in making the hammer sign, saying:

"IN THE NAME OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!"

THE BLOT IS OVER

Ritual Implements

When performing any Blot, the proper ritual tools, or artifacts are needed. These artifacts contain much religious significance and symbolically define and separate the ritual site from any mundane or Christian influence. A listing for the artifacts used in the Temple of Wotan Blotar is found below:

1. ALTAR
2. ALTAR CLOTH/BANNERS, FLAGS, ETC.
3. MEADHORN
4. BOWLI
5. RUNE STAFF
6. GANDR
7. HALLOWING HAMMER
7. STAGHORN
8. SWORD
9. BRISINGAMEN
10. OATH RING

1. ALTAR: Ideally the Odinist Altar is made of natural stone or wood. It should be located out of doors in a grove or in an area specifically set aside for Odinist worship. If a natural stone or wood Altar is unavailable a table or something of that sort can be used in its place. The Altar should be large enough to properly accommodate the Meadhorn, Bowli, rune staff, hammer, etc.

2. ALTAR CLOTH/BANNERS, FLAGS, ETC.: If your kindred has a large stone or wood Altar that has runes and power sigils carved into it then you may not require an Altar cloth. The proper Altar cloth can help to transform an ordinary table into a desirable Odinist Altar. Rune banners can be used to help hallow the ritual area, as well as to put emphasis on the fact that this is indeed an Odinist ritual site. Various flags can be used for the same purpose.

3. MEADHORN: The ceremonial Meadhorn is the vessel containing the sacrificial Mead. The ceremonial Meadhorn needs to be a fairly large size, and should be decorated appropriately. Preferably the kindred will also have various smaller Meadhorns to be used personally by those in attendance of the Blot.

4. BOWLI: The Bowli is used in the act of blessing the folk with the sacrificial Mead. It can be made of wood, bronze, brass or silver, and shall be decorated with runes or power sigils. The Bowli should be about a quart in size, or bigger.

5. RUNE STAFF: The Rune staff is a hallowing artifact and is widely used in the Valhalla bound Blotar. It is especially sacred to Odin. Rune staffs are most commonly made of Oak or Ash. The size varies somewhat but should be at least 36" in length and 2-3" in diameter. They can be rounded or octagonal, and will have the entire Elder Futhark engraved into them.

6. HALLOWING HAMMER: The ceremonial hammer is used for a variety of purposes, and is essential to Odinist worship. The hammer should be at least a foot high and is usually made of Oak or Ash. The hallowing hammer is sacred to Thor and should be decorated appropriately.

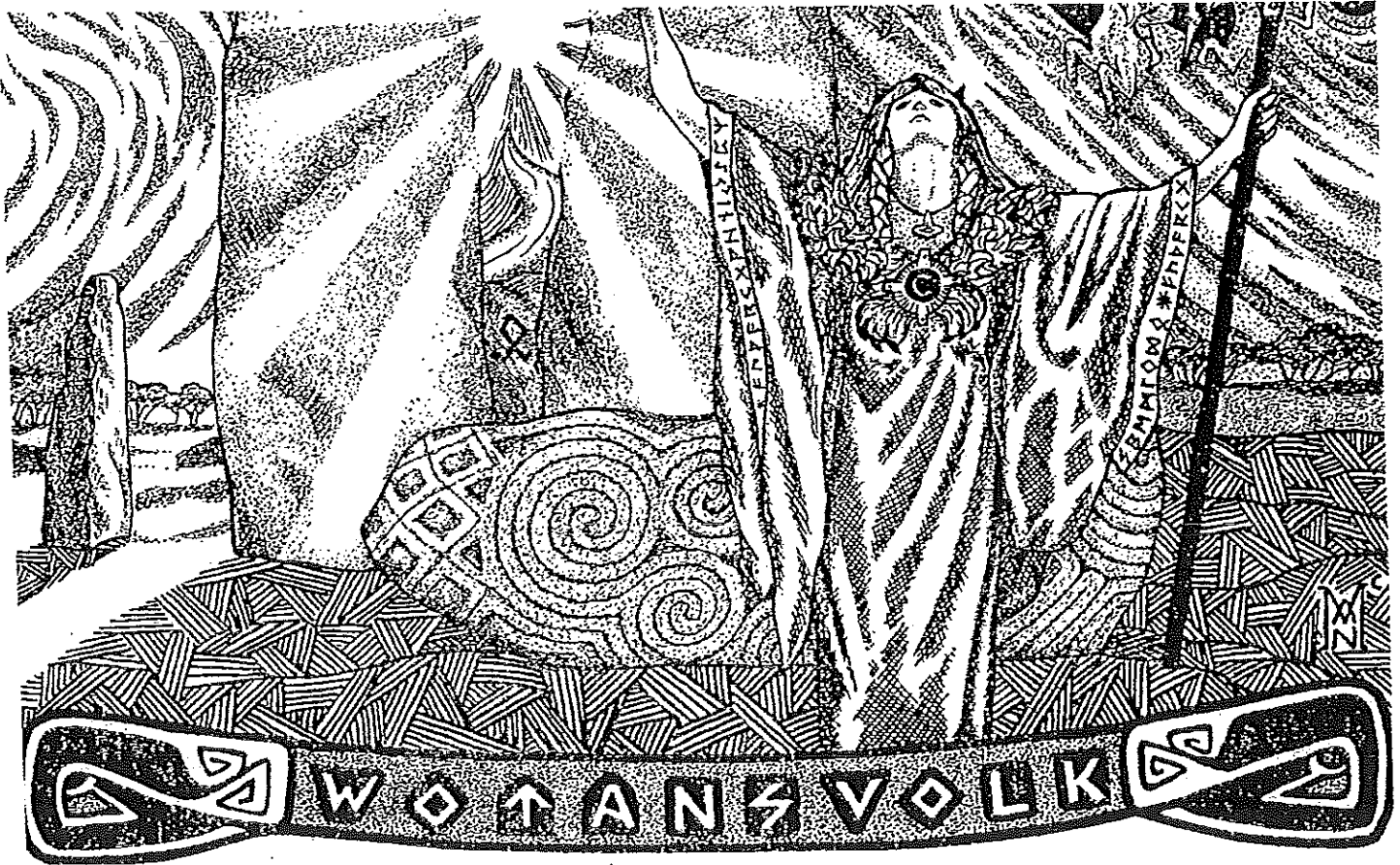
7. STAGHORN: The Staghorn is used in the Frey Blot and is, of course, sacred to Frey. The horn should have at least three prongs, and can have the appropriate runes engraved on it. A

pair of resembling horns is most preferred.

8. SWORD: Swords are sacred to Tyr and are used in the Tyr Blot. Swords will vary in size and length, but should be at least 36" in length. Prison kindreds can substitute either a wooden or cardboard (stiff) sword in place of an authentic sword.

9. BRISINGAMEN: The Brisingamen is an Amber necklace used in worship of Freya. The necklaces vary in style and size; many have a small hammer amulet attached.

The above listing, by no means, constitutes all of the ritual artifacts necessary for Odinit worship. For example: most Altars will have an Oath ring found on them as well as a set of the Elder Futhark runes. Statues of the Gods/Goddesses are desired as well as wooden sunwheels, etc. As your kindred grows so will your collection of ritual artifacts.



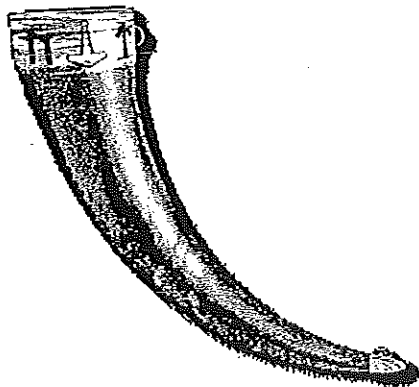
Preparation for the Blot

Preparation for the Blot varies somewhat from kindred to kindred, and from Gothi to Gothi. However, the following outline has been tried and tested by various Gothar performing the Temple of Wotan Blotar and found to be successful through he years.

The first step in preparing for any Blot is education. The Gothi presiding over the Blot must educate himself and his kindred to matters pertaining to the upcoming festival. Study of the God or Goddess linked to the Blot, as well as the mythology related to such should be conducted in the week prior to the festival. When appropriate, this knowledge should be shared with the kindred during kindred meetings prior to the festival. The Gothi needs to be especially well versed in these matters.

The next step is to acquaint oneself with the structure of the Blot at hand. The presiding Gothi should study the Blot carefully until he is confident of the procedure of the rite. If assistants are to be used, they too shall need to be fully acquainted with the rite. If need be, rehearsals may be staged until all are satisfied with the procedure. Whenever possible, all those involved with performing the ritual should work towards memorizing their parts. The Blot will flow much smoother once this is accomplished. This may seem difficult at first, but with a little practice it can be done quite easily.

Fasting and meditation are both recommended for the Gothi presiding over the Blot. This serves to cleanse both the body and mind in order to enable the Gothi to focus himself, clearly, on the sacrifice. A period of three days is appropriate. However, do not let yourself become weak, protein drinks and vitamins are recommended, even small amounts of natural foods.



MOTHER NIGHT/YULE

The yearly cycle of the Temple of Wotan Blotar begins on the Winter Solstice, usually falling on the 20th or the 21st of December (Yulemoon). This is the Mother night festival, or more commonly referred to as Yule. This festival is traditionally celebrated on the eve of the Winter Solstice, marking the beginning of the Nordic New Year. Mother night is the most sacred of the Temple of Wotan festivals; honoring the rebirth of the sun, the end of one era, and the beginning of the next cycle. You see, in the days following Mother night the sun gradually begins to regenerate herself and the days slowly become longer. It is a time of rebirth; of new hope and fresh beginnings. Yule is a time for the folk to refresh themselves, coming forth stronger and full of vitality.

Another equally important aspect of Yule is that of clan continuity. The family line, the ancestral line, is an unbroken chain; past, present and future. The Odinist is actually a summation of all of his ancestors that have gone before him. The clan includes those members who were martyred or who have died and gone on to another world. Thus making Yule a time of family, as well as a time to honor our sacred duty to advance the Golden chain of our ancestral line, one more link.

Many of the "modern" Christian customs associated with this time of year actually have ancient Pagan roots. For example: The decoration of the Yule tree is a tradition that far predates Christianity. Decorated with Sunwheels and candles it represents the world tree, Yggdrasil, and the life force found within. The Yule log is another Odinist tradition, reminding us that this is a season of fire, of the Sun, and that we long for a return of light and warmth.

Some traditions state that Frey is the God to be honored at Yule. Others honor the All-Mother Frigga and still others state that all of the Gods and Goddesses shall be honored during the Yuletide. It has been a long-standing tradition with the Temple of Wotan to honor all of the Aesir and the Vanir at Yule. However, we tend to pay special tribute to Thor, with his sacred hammer, Mjollnir, who has broken the back of winter in order to allow the sun to regenerate herself once again. In addition, Thor seems to be the God most connected to great feasting, partying and celebration. Just having an all around good time.

Yule, of course, begins on the Mother night, and celebrations and partying continues for the next twelve days and nights. Each of the twelve days of Yule represents a month of the year, ending on twelfth night.

MOTHER NIGHT FESTIVAL YULE BLOT

The ceremony begins with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the Altar. Once this is completed, the Gothi then enters the circle. A moment or two of silence shall now be observed in order to still the mind and to prepare those gathered for the ceremony at hand.

HAMMER HALLOWING

The Gothi (or Shield-wall Gothi) now proceeds to erect the sacred Shield-wall. After hammer hallowing himself at the Altar, the Gothi places the ceremonial hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other. He positions himself at the Northern quarter, faces North and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position. While visualizing a Shield-wall, he says:

**HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY SACRED POWERS TO ERECT A
SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD AND TO HALLOW OUR
SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA. HAIL ODINI!**

The Gothi now walks in a quiet fashion to the Eastern quarter. Once again he assumes the

Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, KEEPING ALL IMPURE INFLUENCES AT BAY AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA. HAIL BALDURI

Continuing on to the Southern quarter, the Gothi follows the above procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I INVOKE THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA. HAIL FREY!

And again at the Western quarter:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! PROTECT THY KINDRED AND HALLOW OUR SURROUNDINGS WITH A SACRED SHIELD-WALL, KEEPING ALL NEGATIVE INFLUENCES AT BAY. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA. HAIL THORI

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and the staff. He then hammer signs himself before continuing.

OPENING THE CIRCLE

The Gothi now turns to face the circle and pauses for a moment or two, assuming the Isa stadhagaldr form. After a moment, he lifts his arms on high in the elhaz stadhagaldr form and says:

URUZ... THURISAZ... RAIDO... SOWILO... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF THE GREAT GOD THOR... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND DIVINE COMMUNICATION... I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND KINFOLK, AND TO OPEN THE CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL THORI

The Gothi now hammer sign himself and returns to the Altar to prepare for the consecration.

CONSECRATION

The Gothi now lights the torches or the candles on the Altar. He then turns to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff, he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four corners of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL THORI

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, then steps to one side of the Altar in order to allow his assistant to come forward and read the first reading.

FIRST READING

The assistant now steps forward and hammer signs himself at the Altar. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S MOTHER NIGHT FESTIVAL. MOTHER NIGHT CELEBRATES THE FIRST NIGHT OF THE YULETIDE AND MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE NORDIC NEW YEAR. THE FESTIVAL HONORS THE REBIRTH OF THE SUN, THE END OF ONE ERA AND THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT CYCLE. TODAY WE OFFER A GRAND SACRIFICE TO OUR ALL-BROTHER, THOR. FOR IT IS HE WHO HAS BROKEN THE BACK OF WINTER SO THAT THE SUN MAY REGENERATE HERSELF ONCE AGAIN. THOR, MIGHTY GOD OF THE FEAST! WE HAIL YOU! HAIL THOR! HAIL THOR! HAIL THOR!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

INVOCATION

The Gothi now comes forward and hammer signs himself at the Altar. He then picks up the ceremonial hammer, turning to face the circle, assumes the Elhaz stadhagald position. After pausing for a moment he begins the invocation by saying:

WE HAVE GATHERED IN KINSHIP TO CELEBRATE THE YULETIDE. THOUGH IT MAY BE A TIME OF DARKNESS AND OF COLD, WE ARE WARMED BY OUR SENSE OF UNITY AND BY THE GOLDEN LIGHT OF THE ARYAN SPIRIT THAT GUIDES US. WE HAIL OUR KINSHIP AND OUR BONDS OF BLOOD AND HONOR. WE CALL OUT TO OUR GODS AND TO OUR GODDESSES TO BE WITH US. WE CALL OUT TO THE SPIRIT OF OUR ANCESTORS TO BE WITH US. TO ALL THAT IS GOOD AND SACRED WE CALL OUT TO BE WITH US, AND MAY THAT WHICH IS UNHARMONIOUS NOT ENTER THIS SACRED PLACE, NOR OUR HEARTS.

Here the Gothi pauses for a moment. He then looks skyward once more and continues with:

HAIL ODINI! RAVEN GOD! HIGH GOD OF ASGARD AND CHIEFTAIN OF THE EINHERJAR! MIGHTY VAL-FATHER, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL BALDURI! BRIGHT GOD! GREAT GOD OF GOODNESS AND INNOCENSE! GOD OF REBIRTH. WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL FREY! BOAR GOD! TRUSTY LORD OF THE VANIR AND RELEASER OF FETTERS! LORD FREY, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL THORI! HAMMER GOD! MIGHTY GOD OF STRENGTH AND PROTECTOR OF ASGARD! ALL-BROTHER, WE HAIL YOU!

He again pauses for a moment and then continues with:

HAIL FRIGGA! MOTHER GODDESS! HIGH GODDESS OF ASGARD AND THE WEAVER OF FATES! ALLMOTHER, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL NANNA! SHINING GODDESS! BEAUTIFUL GODDESS OF LOVE AND DEVOTION LOVELY NANNA, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL FREYJA! SENSUAL GODDESS! LUSTY LADY OF THE VANIR AND QUEEN OF THE VALKERIES! LADY FREYJA, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL SIF! GOLDEN HAIREDD GODDESS! LOVELY GODDESS OF THE HARVEST AND FULFILLMENT! BEAUTIFUL SIF, WE HAIL YOU!

Another short pause and then:

HAIL ALL OF THE GREAT GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD! HAIL ALL THEIR KIN! WE SEE YOUR WORKINGS IN ALL OF CREATION. WE SEE YOU IN THE WILD WOODS AND IN THE CROP FILLED FIELDS. WE HEAR YOU IN THE WIND AND IN THE ROARING THUNDER. IN ALL OF THE ELEMENTS WE SEE AND HEAR YOU. HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD, THIS YULE SEASON WE HAIL YOU!

Another pause and then, a little louder than before:

HAIL THORI CHARIOT GOD! THUNDER GOD! ALL-BROTHER! THIS YULE SEASON WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR. THORI YOU WHOSE MIGHT AND STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION PROTECT THE REALMS OF BOTH GODS AND MEN ALIKE. THORI WIELDER OF THE MIGHTY HAMMER, MJOLLNIR. TOGETHER, YOU AND YOUR HAMMER WILL BREAK THE BACK OF WINTER TO ALLOW THE PASSAGE OF THE SEASONS TOWARDS NEW LIFE ONCE AGAIN IN THE SPRING. MIGHTY THORI! YOU, WITH YOUR BELT OF STRENGTH, YOUR GAUNTLETS AND YOUR HAMMER, HAVE BEEN OUR LOYAL COMRADE AND OUR FAITHFUL CHAMPION AGAINST THE FORCES OF CHAOS! THORI HEAR US! HEED OUR SUMMONS, AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED... THUNAR... DEFENDER OF GODS AND MEN... DONNAR... FOE OF THE MIDGARD WORM... THURISAZ... FATHER OF COURAGE AND STRENGTH... GIANT SLAYER... FEAST GOD... ALL-BROTHER...

GREAT THORI RED-BEARDED FRIEND! AS WINTER GRIPS US IN IT'S COLD GRASP, WE CALL OUT TO YOU AND YOUR STRENGTH TO AID US. THORI BATTLER OF CHAOS! WE INVOKE YOU...

The Gothi now replaces the ceremonial hammer back on the Altar. He then picks up the pre-filled Meadhorn, raises it on high, and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR DETERMINATION AND OUR STRUGGLES. THORI ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. THORI TAKE OUR GIFTS... AND POUR NOW YOUR GREAT STRENGTH AND VITALITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

The Gothi now turns to the Altar and pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the Bowl. He then with the hammer signs the Bowl and picks up the Evergreen sprig. With the Bowl and Evergreen sprig in hand he proceeds in a clockwise fashion around the circle blessing the gathered folk. Making the sign of Gebo with the sprig, he says:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE THEE THE STRENGTH AND VITALITY OF THORI THOR HAIL!

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowli and sprig to his assistant in order for the Gothi to share in the blessing. Once completed, the Gothi returns the Bowli and sprig to the Altar. He then hammer signs himself before continuing.

THE REGENERATION

It is at this point that the Gothi, or his assistant, will light the sacred SunWheel. Once it is lit the Gothi will turn to face the circle, hammer sign himself, and say:

**HAIL THE SUN! HAIL THE WHEEL OF CREATION! HAIL THE SACRED REGENERATION!
BALDUR RETURNED AND HOPE RESTORED! HAIL HEALTH, STRENGTH AND
VICTORY! HAIL MIGHTY THOR, GIVER OF NEW HOPE! HAIL THOR! HAIL THOR! HAIL
THOR!**

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, then steps to one side of the Altar in order for the assistant to come forward and do the second reading.

NOTE: This aspect is not included in the nine-aspect foundation, for it is only used at Yule and Midsummer. If the rite is performed outdoors, a large wooden Sunwheel should be used. If indoors, a small paper Sunwheel shall be burnt on the Altar. If a Yule log is available this would be the proper time to light it, along with the appropriate hailing.

SECOND READING

The assistant now comes forward and hammer signs himself at the Altar. He then turns to face the circle and recites the following passage:

**HAMMER OF POWER,
HAMMER OF MIGHT,
HAMMER OF JUSTICE,
HAMMER OF LIGHT;**

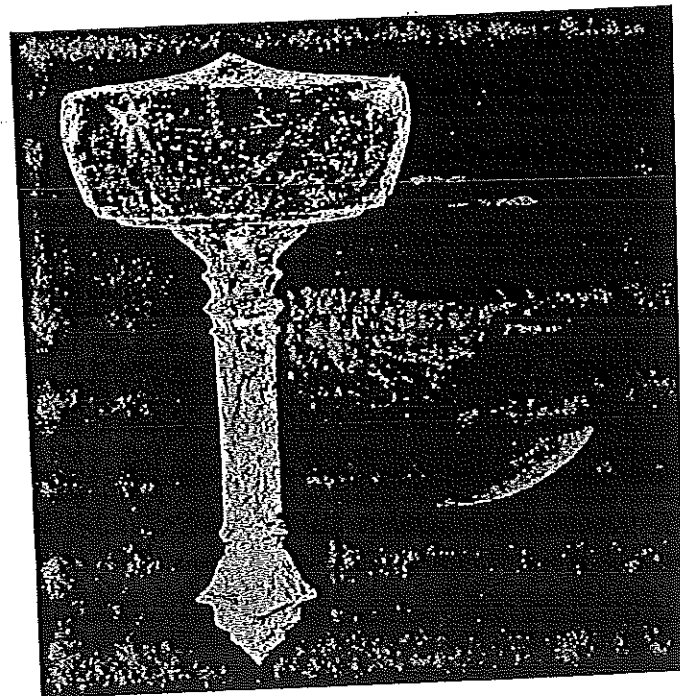
**WHIRLING AND TURNING,
THUNDER AND SKY,
STORM HOWLING FURY,
AS THOR PASSES BY.**

**HAMMER OF FREEDOM,
HAMMER OF LAW,
HAMMER OF COURAGE,
HAMMER OF AWE;**

**SON OF WOTAN,
STRONGEST OF GODS,
FEARLESS IN BATTLE,
NO MATTER THE ODDS.**

**HAMMER THE EVIL,
HAMMER THE DARK,
HAMMER THE TYRANT,
HAMMER AND SPARK.**

**FIGHTING THE CHAOS,
AND GIANTS OF YORE,
NO CHALLENGE TO GREAT,
FOR THE HAMMER OF THOR.**



**HEAR NOW THE RUMBLE,
FROM OUT OF THE SKY,
THE THRASHING OF MJOLLNIR,
AS THOR PASSES BY!**

**THE GROUND IT MAY TREMBLE,
THE WIND IT WILL ROAR,
SO GRAND IS THE POWER,
THE POWER OF THOR...**

HAIL THORI HAIL THORI HAIL THORI

Mjollnir's Might

The assistant now hammer signs himself and returns to his position in the circle.

MEMORY HORN

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. Picking up the Meadhorn, he turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high, he formally begins the memory horn aspect by saying:

**HEAR ME ALL YE HALLOWED BEINGS, BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALL'S
CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE WHO LISTEN!**

He pauses for a moment, then continues with:

**THORI HEARKEN, MIGHTY ALL-BROTHER! BATTLER OF CHAOS! SHARE WITH US
YOUR STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE THIS YULETIDE! THOR HAIL!**

The Gothi, or the horn bearer, now proceeds in a quiet fashion around the circle, offering those present a choice to drink from the horn and give a toast of their choosing:

**RECEIVE THEE NOW, THIS HORN OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE SACRED DRINK OF
THE GODS.**

Once the horn has completed the circle and all have toasted Thor, the Gothi refills the horn, hammer signs it, and raises it on high, saying:

**ODINI HEARKEN, MIGHTY VAL-FATHER! RAVEN GOD! SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE
AND INSPIRATION WITH US DURING THE YULE SEASON! ODIN HAIL!**

The same procedure as above is followed until the horn has completed a second round. Once completed, the Gothi begins the third and final round saying:

**FREYI HEARKEN, LORD OF THE VANIS! GIVER OF PLENTY! SHARE WITH US YOUIR
GIFTS OF PEACE AND PLENTY THIS YULETIDE. FREY HAIL!**

The Gothi again takes the horn around the circle for as third and final round, giving all a chance to hail Frey. He then returns the horn to the Altar and pours the remainder of the Mead either on the ground or in the Bowl. He then sets the horn down and hammer signs himself before closing the Blot.

THE CLOSING

The Gothi now turns to face the circle and leaning on the rune staff, pauses for a moment, and then says:

ONCE MORE THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR WISDOM; AND TO USE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO AID AND ADVANCE OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIE! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL THOR!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself and prepares to remove the Shield-wall. With rune staff and ceremonial hammer in hand, he proceeds to the Western quarter. He again forms the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING THIS ENCLOSURE, KEEPING NEGATIVE INFLUENCES AT BAY WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HAIL THOR!

He now continues, widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Following the same basic procedure as above, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE GIVE THANKS FOR PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL FREY!

The same procedure is followed at the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR THY SHIELD-WALL; KEEPING IMPURE INFLUENCES AT BAY AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HAIL BALDUR!

And finally at the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE GIVE THANKS FOR PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND FOR HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL ODIN!

The Gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the Altar. He then turns to face the circle, and all present join him in making the hammer sign and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW



TWELFTH NIGHT

For the Odinist, Yule is an especially sacred time of year. Our Twelfth night festival marks the end of the Yuletide. A Blot held on each of the twelve days of Yule might seem appropriate; however, most kindreds do not have the available time nor the resources for such festivities. Therefore we give you two major Yule Blotar: The Mother night, marking the beginning of the Yuletide, and twelfth night, marking the end of the Yule season.

We have chosen to honor the white God, Heimdall on this sacred day. This is a tradition that we began many years ago simply due to the respect that we hold for this deity and all that he stands for. Heimdall: guardian, progenitor, teacher, warrior, Shaman-yes, we hold the utmost respect for this great God.

Twelfth night is also a time for the swearing of oaths and for dedicating oneself to a specific service to the folk, or perhaps to a God/Goddess of one's choosing. This can be done just prior to the memory horn aspect of the Blot; a fitting way to end the Yuletide.

HEIMDALL BLOT YULE-TWELFTH NIGHT

The ceremony begins with the folk being assembled in a circle around the altar. The Gothi then enters the circle. A moment or two of silence will now be observed in order to still the mind and to prepare those gathered for the ceremony at hand.

1. HAMMER HALLOWING

The Gothi now proceeds to erect a holy shield-wall, and to hallow the ritual area. With the ceremonial hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other he faces North and assumes the Elhaz Stadhagaldr position, saying:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL, TO PROTECT THIS STEAD AND HALLOW THIS ENCLOSURE. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODIN!

The Gothi now walks in a deosil fashion to the Eastern quarter. Once again assuming the Elhaz stadhagaldr form and says:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWER TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT OUR FOLK AND TO HALLOW THIS STEAD! HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDUR!

The Gothi continues on to the Southern quarter and standing in the Elhaz stadhagaldr position says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I INVOKE THY POWER TO ERECT A SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD AND TO HALLOW THIS ENCLOSURE! HELGA VA THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

The Gothi now proceeds to the Western quarter. Standing in the Elhaz stadhagaldr position he says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY

**SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THY KINDRED AND HALLOW THIS ENCLOSURE! HELGA
VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA! HAIL THOR!**

The Gothi now returns to the Alter and lays down the hammer and rune staff. He then Hammer signs himself before continuing.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

The Gothi now faces the circle and pauses for a moment. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form, saying:

**KENNAZ...MANNAZ...DAGAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...MIGHTY RUNES OF THE
WHITE GOD HEIMDALL...LIFE-RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE
COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS
GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE
HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL HEIMDALL!**

3. CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, then returns to the Alter. The Gothi, facing the Alter, raises the rune staff on high and makes the sign of the hammer over the Alter, saying:

**IN THE NAME OF ODIN, BALDER, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTER AND
PLACE SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND VANIR. BANISHING
FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR TWELFTH NIGHT
FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES
OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL HEIMDALL!**

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing.

4. SACRED FLAMES.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Alter. He then turns to face the circle. While leaning on his rune staff he recites the sacred flame passage as his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles positioned at the four quarters of the circle:

**IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF
CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET
FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME
TO THE LIGHT. AND LET THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER
BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL
HEIMDALL!**

The Gothi and his assistant now hammer sign themselves before continuing.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps forward and hammer signs himself at the Alter. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDREDS TWELFTH NIGHT FESTIVAL. THIS

CEREMONY CELEBRATES THE LAST DAY OF THE YULETIDE. TODAY WE OFFER SACRIFICE AND SWEAR OATHS TO THE ANCIENT WHITE GOD OF OUR FOLK, HEIMDALL. WE ASK FOR HIS WISDOM AND GUIDANCE IN THE NEW YEAR. HEIMDALL, MIGHTY GUARDIAN AND TEACHER, WE HAIL YOU. HAIL HEIMDALL! HAIL HEIMDALL! HAIL HEIMDALL!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now comes forward and hammer signs himself at the Alter. He then turns to face the circle with rune staff in hand. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form with rune staff raised overhead and says:

HAIL ODINI! ALLFATHER! GREAT GOD OF GODS! YOU WHO INSPIRE US IN THE WAYS OF WAR AND WISDOM! JOIN US FOR OUR TWEFTH NIGHT FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. ODIN, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL FRIGGA! ALL-MOTHER! QUEEN OF ASGARD! YOU WHO SPIN THE VERY THREAD OF OUR FATE! BE WITH US HERE TODAY FOR OUR YULE FESTIVITIES. FRIGGA, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL THORI! ALL-BROTHER! MIGHTY HAMMER GOD! YOU WHO KEEP THE FORCES OF CHAOS IN CHECK! JOIN US HERE FOR OUR CELEBRATION OF THE LAST DAY OF YULE. THOR, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL HEIMDALL! GUARDIAN AND TEACHER! GREAT GOD OF OUR FOLK! WE ARE HERE THIS DAY TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR. HEINDALL! YOU WHO FAITHFULLY GUARD THE BIFROST BRIDGE WITH YOUR RAM AND YOU GJALLARHORN. YOU WHO DECIDE WHO IS WORTHY OF PASSAGE INTO ASGARD. O YOU, BLOWER OF THE HORN AT THE GREAT AND FINAL BATTLE. HEIMDALL! GREAT GOD OF PROTECTION AND OF MUCH WISDOM. LORD OF KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WORTHY HERE ON MIDGARD.

HEIMDALL! GOD WHO LOVES A GOOD, SPORTING FIGHT. HEIMDALL! HEAR US! HEED OUR SUMMONS, AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR NAMES MOST HOLY. COME TO US NOW... WHITE GOD! SHINING ASE! GUARDIAN GOD! LOKI'S FOE! TEACHING GOD! RIG! GJALLARHORN GOD! GOD OF SHAMANS BIFROST GOD!

HEIMDALL! GREAT GOD OF MANKIND! WITH THE END OF THE YULETIDE UPON US WE CALL ON YOU TO GUIDE AND TEACH US IN THE NEW YEAR. HEIMDALL! MIGHTY



LORD OF WISDOM! HEIMDALL, WE INVOKE YOU...

The Gothi now lays the rune staff down upon the Alter. He picks up the mead horn, faces the circle and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR DETERMINATION, OUR STRUGGLES. HEIMDALL! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. HEIMDALL! TAKE OUR GIFTS AND POUR NOW YOUR POWER INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW CLOSER TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US,

The Gothi now pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. He then hammers signs the bowl. Then with bowl and sprig in hand he proceeds deosil around the circle blessing the folk. Making the sign of Gebo with the sprig as he says:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU HEIMDALL'S BLESSING. RIG HAIL!

Answered by *Hail Heimdall!*

After blessing the folk the Gothi returns to the Alter and sets down the bowl and sprig. He then hammers signs himself before continuing.

7. SECOND READING.

An assistant now comes forward and hammers signs himself at the Alter. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

"NOTIONS OF INFINITY"

BY RON McVan

**"IN THE STILLNESS OF TIME
O ARYAN MAN-
IN THAT QUIET HOUR
OF CLARITY AND REFLECTION.
DISTANT VOICES YOU WILL HEAR,
AND KNOW
ETERNAL VOICES
THAT BECKON WITH THE KNOWLEDGE
OF ANCIENT AGES.
LISTEN AND WITNESS
THAT MAN IS A SYNTHESIS,
A BIOLOGICAL MATRIX
OF ANIMATED SPACE-TIME.
A LIVING MOMENT
OF ALL HISTORY
THAT EVER WAS
AND EVER WILL BE.
ALL PRECIOUS LIFE
IS BUT A FLEETING INSTANT**

**DO NOT DISCARD
THE IMPORTANCE
OF YOUR HOUR IN MIDGARD.
RISE TO THE TASK
OF YOUR NOBLE BLOOD;
TO THIS OUR GODS
WILL EVER GUIDE YOU.
DEFINE YOURSELF
OR BE DEFINED-
LET NO MAN,
ENEMY OR TYRANT
ALTER YOUR DESTINY
THAT ESSENCE OF BEING
WHICH IS YOURS ALONE.
CHOOSE YOUR WORDS WISELY
MANIFEST YOUR SPIRIT
AND LIVE WHAT YOU SPEAK-
FOR LIFE ITSELF HAS SPEECH
AND IS NEVER SILENT...**

**REAL AND UNREAL
THE SAME;**

HAIL HEIMDALL!"

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position at the Alter.

8. DEDICATION

The Gothi now steps up to the Alter and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the rune staff, turns to face the circle and asks if there are any present who wish to swear an oath in front of the Gods/Goddesses; Or that would like to dedicate themselves to Heimdall or any other God or Goddess.

Those who wish can step up to the Alter, hammer sign themselves and swear their holy oath or dedication. Placing their right hand on the Oath Ring (if one is not available the rune staff or hammer can be used), he then petitions the Gods/Goddesses with an oath or dedication of his choosing. He then hammer signs himself and returns to his position in the circle.

NOTE: This aspect is not included in the nine-aspect foundation as it is usually only performed for this Blot.

9. MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now picks up the Mead Horn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

HEAR ME ALL YE HALLOWED BEINGS, BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALL'S CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE THAT LISTEN!

He pauses for a moment, then continues with:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! HEIMDALL! GUARDIAN OF THE RAINBOW BRIDGE! GOD OF SHAMAND! SHARE YOUR GUIDANCE AND WISDOM WITH US THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR. HAIL RIG!

He then proceeds in the deosil fashion, with horn in hand, to offer those present an opportunity to toast the Gods/Goddesses, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. RIG HAIL!

Answered by **HAIL HEIMDALL** after drinking.

After completing the circle, the Gothi returns to the Altar and pours the remaining mead either on the ground or in the bowl. He then returns the horn to the Altar and hammer signs himself before closing the Blot.

10. THE CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle. While leaning on his rune staff, he pauses for a moment, then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (name of kindred) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MAN

BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL HEIMDALL!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself and prepares to remove the shield-wall. With the ceremonial hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, he proceeds in a Widdershins fashion to the Western quarter. Assuming the Elhaz stadhagaldr form, he says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THY KINDRED AND HALLOWING THIS ENCLOSURE WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HAIL THOR!

He then continues, widdershins fashion, to the Southern quarter and repeats the above procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THIS STEAD WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, AND HALLOWING OUR ENCLOSURE. HAIL FREY!

And to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING OUR ENCLOSURE. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally at the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING THIS ENCLOSURE WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD -WALL. HAIL ODIN!

The Gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the Altar, turns to face the circle and raises his right hand on high. Everyone present now joins him making the hammer sign, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR- WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS NOW OVER.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

CHARMING OF THE PLOW

This ceremony marks the beginning of the planting season and celebrates the start of the new year. It is a festival of fertility, of the planted seed, the plowed earth and the fruitfulness of the folk.

On this day sacrifice is given in hopes of securing a plentiful harvest at the end of the season. A loaf of bread should be baked and given back to the earth during this Blot as a symbolic sacrifice. If this is not possible then breads and fruits should be placed on the Altar as an offering.

Some kindreds call on Odin, Frigga and the land spirits on this day but we at the Temple of Wotan traditionally honor Frey, the Lord of the crops, with sacrifice today. At this Blot we hail Lord Frey, as well as the men and women whose skills and labor enable us to maintain our existence. We should also be reminded of the continuity of life, a new year born. A perfect time to hail Frey!

CHARMING OF THE PLOW-FREY BLOT.

This ceremony begins with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the Altar. The Gothi then enters the circle and all observe a moment of silence. This is done to still the mind and to prepare those present for the Blot at hand. He then hammer signs himself at the Altar and prepares to erect a sacred shield-wall.

1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THESE SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA! HAIL ODIN!

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hails the forces.

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I INVOKE THY POWERS TO PROTECT THIS SITE WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA! HAIL BALDUR!

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THESE SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA! HAIL FREY!

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! I INVOKE THY POWERS TO PROTECT THIS SITE WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL AND TO HALLOW THESE SURROUNDINGS. HELGE VE THETTA!

OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THORI

The Gothi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Gothi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms skyward in the Elhaz form, and says:

FEHU... JERA... EHWAZ... INGWAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF THE GREAT GOD FREY... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND DIVINE COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL FREY!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

3. CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR CHARMING OF THE PLOW FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL FREY!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

4. SACRED FLAME.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL FREY!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, then he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S CHARMING OF THE PLOW FESTIVAL.

THIS IS A FERTILITY FESTIVAL, AND MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE PLANTING SEASON. TODAY WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN HOPES OF SECURING A PLENTIFUL HARVEST AT THE END OF THE SEASON. WE ALSO HAIL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SKILLS AND HARD WORK ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR EXISTENCE, AND REMIND OURSELVES OF THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE AND OF A NEW YEAR BORN. HAIL FREY! HAIL FREY! HAIL FREY!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Staghorn in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL ODINI! GIVER OF WEALTH, MAY YOUR GREAT WISDOM GUIDE US.

HAIL THORI! PATRON OF WORKERS, MAY YOUR STRENGTH AND FIERCE DETERMINATION INSPIRE US.

HAIL NJORD! PROTECTOR OF COMMERCE! HAIL FAIR SIFI! MAY YOUR GIFTS EVER BE WITH US.

HAIL FREYA! LOVELY LADY OF THE VANIR, BE OUR GUIDE AND OUR COMFORT.

HAIL MOTHER EARTH! MAY YOUR CROPS YIELD PLENTY AND YOUR TREES BE LADEN WITH GOOD FRUIT.

The Gothi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL FREY! LORD OF THE CROPS, GOD OF WEALTH, GOD OF PEACE AND PLENTY. FREY! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOU WHO POSSESS THE POWER OF THE BOAR AND THE MIGHT OF THE WILD STALLION. FREY! YOU WHO NURTURE THE RIVERS AND SEAS TO GIVE US AN ABUNDANCE OF FISH. YOU WHO GIVE STRENGTH TO THOSE WHO WORK THE STUFF OF THE EARTH. THE WOOD AND CLAY, METAL AND STONE, VINE AND CROP AND ANIMALS. YOU, GIVER OF WEALTH AND PROSPERITY. FREY! HEAR US. HEED OUR SUMMONS, AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED. COME TO US NOW... HORNED GOD... GOD OF THE FERTILE SEASON... SON OF NJORD... FREYJA'S



**TWIN... LORD OF THE WAR HOST... GOD OF PROSPERITY... GOD OF THE SWEDES...
GOD OF MEN... GOD OF THE WORLD... GREAT FREY! IN LORDLY MANNER AND WITH
SACRED RESPECT WE CALL OUT TO YOU AS OUR GOD. FREY! MOVE US WITH YOUR
MIGHT! FREY! FREE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! FREY! WE INVOKE YOU...**

At this point the Gothi lowers the Staghorn and turns to face the Altar. He then replaces the Staghorn with the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Again turning to face the circle he raises the Meadhorn on high and continues with:

**...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR
STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. FREY! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE
HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND
SACRED RESPECT. FREY! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND
PROSPERITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO
YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.**

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize Frey's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds deosil fashion around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

**WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF FREY.
FREY HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL FREY!)**

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowl and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Then he returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

7. SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

SACRED BLOOD

Ron McVan.

**"TITAND OF ASGARD SHINING BOLD,
GODS OF NIGHT AND GLORY,
BENEATH YOUR SUN
WHERE TIME IS SPUN-
BEHOLD LIFE'S MIDGARD STORY."**

**"FROM WOTAN HIGH.
WHO RULES THE SKY
OUR MEN OF LEGEND RISE,
GREAT KINGS AND QUEENS AND WARRIORS TRUE-
THE VALIANT AND THE WISE."**

"SPLENDORS OF A GALLANT PAST,

**PEOPLE OF A NOBLE CASTE,
WITHIN YOUR BLOOD
A WORLD THOU HAST-
IT MOLDS OUR DESTINY!"**

**"O KINGDOMS RISE AND FADE AWAY,
LIKE CRADLES IN THE GRAVE-
BUT THE SOUL WITHIN,
OUR OWN BLOOD KIN,
SURVIVES THE OCEAN WAVES."**

**"SO SHINE ON LIGHT OF BALDUR BRIGHT,
AND THE THUNDER FLASH OF THOR-
FOR THAT KINDRED SPARK
WITHIN OUR VEINS
LIVES ON FOR EVERMORE!
LIVES ON FOR EVERMORE...
HAIL FREY! HAIL FREY! HAIL FREY!"**

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

8. MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

**A TOAST TO THE GODS! GREAT FREY! SHARE WITH US YOUR WEALTH AND
PROSPERITY THIS YEAR. HAIL FREY!**

The Gothi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, FREY HAIL!

After completing the circle the Gothi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowl, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

9. CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

**ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS
MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE
ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO
AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE
ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL FREY!**

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR HALLOWING THESE SURROUNDINGS WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING THIS SITE, HAIL THOR!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THIS SITE AND HALLOWING THIS AREA WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HAIL FREY!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THIS SITE WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, HALLOWING THESE SURROUNDINGS. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING THIS SITE AND HALLOWING THESE SURROUNDINGS. HAIL ODIN!

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

Feast of Vali

The Feast of Vali is a memorial blot dedicated to Vali, son of Wotan, and is normally held on the 14th of Horning, which coincides with Valentine's Day of the modern era.

This ceremony marks the stirring of spring and the renewed hope while within the confines of the dark winter. With this sense of renewal, comes a time to renew love for our Family, Faith and Folk.

On this day sacrifice is given in to recognize this renewed hope. Small gifts should be given which are appropriate to this event, gifts given out of love for our faith and folk would be best suited for this. A Feast is also highly recommended, followed by a sumbel wherein the memories of our deities, ancestors and folk are remembered.

Some kindreds call on Freyja on this day, celebrating her as the Goddess of Love but we at the Temple of Wotan traditionally honor Vali, while inviting Freyja to join as witness. At this Blot we hail Vali the Avenger, who acted selflessly out of love for Balder. What better example of valor for Family, Faith and Folk? A perfect time to hail Vali!

1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAD AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO OUR GODS. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hails the forces.

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES THIS DAY. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR OUR GODS ON THIS, THE FEAST OF VALI. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAM! I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES TODAY. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

The Gothi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Gothi assumes the lsa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms skyward in the Elhaz form, and says:

FEHU... GEBO... LAGUZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF VALI... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND DIVINE COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL VALI!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

3. CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR FEAST OF VALI FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL VALI!

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

4. SACRED FLAME.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL VALI!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, the he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S FEAST OF VALI. THIS IS A FESTIVAL OF MEMORIAL AND RENEWED HOPE FOR OUR FOLK AS THEY EMERGE FROM THE CONFINES IMPOSED BY THE DARK WINTER. WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN HOPES OF REMINDING ALL THAT WE ARE KITH AND KIN, COURAGEOUS AND VALIANT. WE ALSO HAIL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SKILLS AND HARD WORK CONTINUE TO PROMOTE OUR HOLY FAITH AND ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN NOT ONLY OUR EXISTENCE, BUT ALSO GROWTH AND PROSPERITY FOR OUR FOLK. HAIL VALI! HAIL VALI! HAIL VALI!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Sword in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL WOTANI! GIVER OF WEALTH, MAY YOUR GREAT WISDOM GUIDE US. I CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR BLOT TO VALI, THY SON. HAIL WOTANI!

HAIL FREYJAI! LOVELY LADY OF THE VANIR, GODDESS OF LOVE, EROTIC AND TRU. I INVOKE YOU TO JOIN AS WITNESS OF OUR RESPECT FOR VALI, AND OUR LOVE FOR THE GODS & GODDESSES. HAIL FREYJAI!

HAIL NERTHUSI! MOTHER EARTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO SHARE IN THIS BLOT OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE. HAIL NERTHUSI!

The Gothi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL VALI, BRINGER OF NEW LIGHT! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOUR SHAFTS PIERCE WINTER'S HEART AND PROMISE THE NEW SPRING. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR LIGHT ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, VALI, SON OF WOTAN AND RIND. MAY YOU FOREVER DWELL ALWAYS IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAIL YOU AS DEFENDER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY AS WELL. FREE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! VALI! WE INVOKE YOU...

At this point the Gothi lowers the Sword and turns to face the Altar. He then replaces the Sword with the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Again turning to face the circle he raises the Meadhorn on high and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. VALI! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. FREY! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize Vali's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowli. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowli he takes the bowli and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds deosil fashion around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF VALI. VALI HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL VALI!)

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowli and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Then he returns the Bowli and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

7. SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

IF WOTAN CAN REDEEM

Phil Hickey

*A future bright and full of promise,
once such I had.
Prominent, caring family,
well educated as a Lad.*

*Alas as a youngster,
not yet in my teens,
fell prey to Alberch's kins'
wicked games did I,
Morals confused and myself deceived.*

*Indulged in the mead of despair and loss
did I,
of witches tantalizing spices,
Daily did I use.*

*With each cloud of smoke that covered me,
the Garm of lungs devoured;
with such sprinkling of powder
did Fenrir's kin gain power.*

A thrall I became,
my sword invincible I did name,
"the needle", "hope slayer"
"Dream destroyer".

Ten and seven years did I remain,
Enchanted by this daughter of Alberichs spell,
In service to Fafnir
a life taken, in time, Now lost and forfeit is mine.

At ten and nine imprisoned,
my Dragon master led me,
to twenty and five and then maybe,
but til life I may remain.

Yet hark! and look ye here! hear!
for a new dawn is on the rise,
At twenty and seven a warrior reborn, Einherjar,
no longer a priest to the father of lies!

My redeemer, many names has he,
Allfather Wotan called out to me.

Unknowing of his ways or means,
I prayed to him down on my knees.
Sent me a sign of acceptance did he,
A blessing and a guide.

Yet not so many moons ago,
did this awakening take place.
For 'twas the first Friggasday of lenting,
and on the Asa'path I've ever walked since.

Many confirmations and blessings,
from the gods have I received,
and many new friends, with blessings of gifts,
—have helped me on my way.

No longer will I be enslaved,
misguided or deceived!
To Wotan am I dedicated,
The ancient one my soul did save

Yea as behind these walls I may remain,
my brow-moons have seen the light of a better way,
I carry the wisdom of the ancient one
with me e'eryday.

"None so good he lacks all fault,
None so wretched he lacks all virtue."
A message from our Asa'Father

*strong and true,
Fir if Wotan can redeem, save and forgive me,
Than verily the same he can do for you!*

HAIL VALII HAIL VALII HAILVALII"

The assistant now hammer signs himself and the returns to his position in the circle.

8. MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! GREAT VALII SHARE WITH US YOUR WEALTH AND PROSPERITY THIS YEAR. HAIL VALII

The Gothi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, VALI HAIL!

After completing the circle the Gothi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowl, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

9. THE OATHS.

After the gothi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:

NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR HE MAKING OF OATHS AND SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS, GODDESSES AND KINSFOLK A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

The Gothi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. Gothi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oathee enters inner circle, taking oathring with him/her. Upon conclusion of the oath, Gothi will affirm oath and mark oather with rune staff as follows:

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?

Upon receiving affirmation, Gothi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

WITH THIS RUNESTAFF BEING A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL WOTAN!

10. CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE

ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIRI HAIL THE VANIRI HAIL VALII

The Gothi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL NERTHUS! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE PAID HONOR AND RESPECT TO ONE OF YOUR OWN. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HOLDS GREAT LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR YOU! FAR HAEI, NERTHUS!

HAIL FREYJA! YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMING TODAY. RETURN NOW TO FOLKVANGR AND SESSRUMNIR, WITH TIDINGS FOR OUR COMRADES THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) PAID RESPECT AND HONOR TO VALI THIS DAY. FAR HAEI, FREYJA!

HAIL WOTAN! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE MADE SACRIFICE TO THY SON, VALI. RETURN NOW TO THY HALLS, VALHALLA AND VALASKJIALF, BEARING TIDINGS THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEARS GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR KIN IN ASGARD! FAR HAEI WOTAN!

HAIL VALI THE AVENGER! WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS, BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING VALOR AND THE EXAMPLE YOU SET FOR YOUR KIN ON MIDGARD! RETURN NOW TO ASGARD, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU!

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY. NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF VALI! FAR HAEI!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO VALI. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS DAY. FAR HAEI!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF THE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TODAY. NOW GET THEE TO THY SUN DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF VALI AS THIS KINDRED WILL! FAR HAEI!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

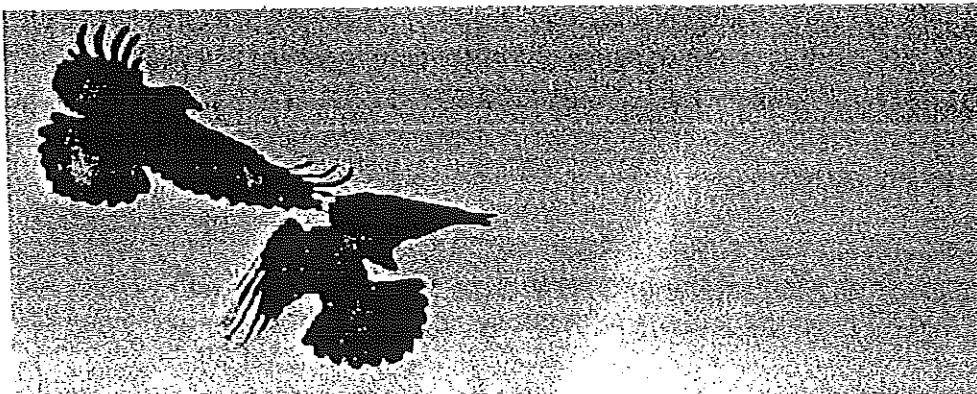
**HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY
GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO VALI.
RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO VALI WITH US, KNOW
THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE! FAR HAE!**

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW



Summer Finding

High Feast of Ostara

This ceremony commences with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the altar. The gothi then enters the circle and observes a moment or two of silence. This is done to still the mind; preparing those present for the ritual at hand.

Hammer Hallowing

The gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then proceeds to erect a sacred shield-wall, hallowing the ritual site. With hallowing hammer in one hand and rune-staff in the other, he faces north and assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, saying:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I HEREBY CALL UPON THY SACRED POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT OUR FOLK AND TO HALLOW THIS SITE. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODIN!

* Note: the gothi should actually visualize a burning wall of flame, or perhaps a large stone wall forming while invoking the forces.

The gothi now proceeds in a deosil (clockwise) fashion to the eastern quarter. Once again, he assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form and repeats the same basic procedure, saying:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; KEEPING ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE AT BAY AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDUR!

He continues on to the southern quarter. Again repeating the above procedure, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I INVOKE THY POWERS TO PROTECT THIS STEAD AND TO HALLOW THIS SITE WITH A SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

And finally, to the western quarter. Again repeating the above procedure, he says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! KEEP THE NEARBY CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AT BAY WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; HALLOW OUR SURROUNDINGS AND PROTECT THY KINDRED. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THOR!

The gothi now returns (deosil) to the altar, replacing the staff and hammer. He then hammer-signs himself before Opening the Circle.

Opening the Circle

The gothi now turns to face the circle and pauses for a moment or two. He then assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, saying:

**FEHU...KENNAZ...JERA...PERTHO...BERKANO...EHWAZ...LAGUZ...INGWAZ...
ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...**

**MIGHTY RUNES OF THE HIGH FEAST OF OSTAR...
LIFE-RUNE; MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION:**

I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS, AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL FRIGGA! HAIL FREYJA! HAIL NERTHUS!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself before Consecrating the altar.

Consecration

While facing the altar, the gothi raises his rune staff and traces the sign of the hammer over the altar, while calling out:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE ASIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCE FOR OUR SUMMER FINDING FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE ASIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL OSTARAI!!

The gothi returns the staff to the altar and hammer-signs himself before lighting the Sacred Flames.

Sacred Flames

The gothi now lights the torches or the candles on the altar. He turns to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff, he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit or, if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAMES OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY, AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME, SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN ITS' SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL FRIGGA! HAIL FREYJA! HAIL NERTHUS!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself, then steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward to read the First Reading.

First Reading

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and to read the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S SUMMER FINDING FESTIVAL. SUMMER FINDING CELEBRATES THE END OF WINTER AND THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF RENEWAL. THIS FESTIVAL HONORS THE SPRING EQUINOX, A TIME OF NEW GROWTH AND NEW BEGINNINGS. TODAY WE OFFER A GRAND SACRIFICE; HONORING THREE GREAT GODDESSES: FRIGGA, FREYJA AND NERTHUS. THIS IS A VERY JOYOUS OCCASION, FOR NOW THE DAYS GROW WARMER AND SIGNS OF NEW LIFE BEGIN SHOWING EVERYWHERE. A TIME OF RENEWAL; REBIRTH, AND A TIME TO HAIL THE HIGH GODDESSES! HAIL FRIGGA! HAIL FREYJA! HAIL NERTHUS!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may perform the Invocation.

Invocation

The gothi now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up rune-staff and turns to face the circle. Assuming the Elhaz stadhagaldr position with rune staff high overhead, he says:

THE MESSENGERS OF SPRING HAVE ONCE AGAIN RETURNED. NOW IS THE TIME OF AWAKENING, OF HEALING AND RENEWED STRENGTH. A TIME OF RE-MAKING AS MIDGARD UNFURLS A NEW, GREEN MANTLE OF LIFE AND THE PROMISES IT BRINGS. ALL HAIL TO LADY OSTARAI AND ALL HAIL THE THREE HIGH GODDESSES OF SPRING! AS THE SEASON BLOSSOMS, BY YOUR HOLY GRACE, MAY OUR SPIRITS GROW IN STRENGTH, EVER STRONGER, LIKE THE MIGHTY OAK. WE NOW SING YOUR PRAISE, AND ASK THAT YOU HONOR US WITH YOUR PRESENCE.

Here the gothi pauses for a moment, then in a louder voice continues with:

FRIGGAI MOTHER GODDESS OF ALL ARYANKIND - HEILI DIVINE FRIGGA, BELOVED IS THY NAME; REVERED ABOVE ALL THE GODDESSES. O YOU, MIGHTIEST OF THE GODDESSES; QUEEN OF ASGARD, WE CALL OUT TO YOU AS OUR GODDESS HERE THIS DAY. VALIANT FRIGGAI AWESOME IN THY BEAUTY AND WISDOM, WE INVOKE THEE AND CALL UPON THEE. HAIL FRIGGAI

Again the gothi pauses briefly, then continues with:

FREYJAI GODDESS OF LOVE, LIFE AND THE FERTILE EARTH, HEILI LOVELY FREYJA, VANA-DIS, GRACE US WITH YOUR DIVINE BEAUTY! O YOU, LADY OF MAGIC; LADY OF THE SLAIN; QUEEN OF THE MYSTERIES, WE CALL OUT TO YOU AS OUR GODDESS HERE THIS DAY. LADY FREYJAI MOST BEAUTIFUL OF THE GODDESSES, WINTER NOW INTO THIS CIRCLE. HAIL FREYJAI

Once more the gothi pauses before continuing with:

NERTHUS! GREAT EARTH MOTHER; GODDESS OF RENEWAL, HEILI SACRED NERTHUS, GRANT US YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE AND RADIANT BEAUTY. O YOU, TERRA MATER; MOTHER EARTH; QUEEN OF FERTILITY, WE CALL OUT TO YOU AS OUR GODDESS HERE THIS DAY. NOBLE NERTHUS! SUPREME IN THY GIFTS, HONOR US NOW WITH THY PRESENCE. HAIL NERTHUS!

Again the gothi pauses briefly, then continues in a lowered voice:

THIS IS A TIME OF RENEWAL. ALL HAIL TO THE BRIGHT GODDESSES! AWAKEN THE MIGHTY GODS OF SUMMER WITH YOUR DIVINE BEAUTY, LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE UPON MIDGARD AND STIR OUR HEARTS AND OUR BLOOD.

The gothi pauses, then in a loud voice continues with:

HAIL ODIN! FATHER OF ALL! YOU ARE THE SUN BY WHOSE LIGHT THY SOUL MAY SEE.

HAIL TYRI BOLD AND MIGHTY! RAISE YOUR SWORD ONCE AGAIN FOR THY FOLK.

FREY! WE HAIL YOU! AWAKEN OUR FOLK, FREE OUR SOUL.

THORI YOU WHO ENCOURAGE GROWTH AND GIVE US STRENGTH, WE HAIL YOU!

HAIL HEIMDALL! GUARDIAN AND TEACHER! GUIDE AND INSPIRE THY FOLK THIS DAY.

Again a short pause, then in a louder voice yet, he continues:

FRIGGA.... FREYJA.... NERTHUS.... VALIANT, BEAUTIFUL AND NOBLE GODDESSES, WE INVOKE YOU...

The gothi now turns to the altar and replaces the rune-staff. He then picks up the pre-filled mead horn, turns to face the circle and lifts the horn on high, saying:

.... AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE, THE SACRIFICE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS; OUR LOYALTY; OUR DEVOTION. O GREAT GODDESSES, ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN THY HONOR, AS A SIGN OF OUR SUPREME RESPECT AND KINSHIP. O GREAT GODDESSES, TAKE OUR GIFTS AND POUR NOW YOUR SACRED POWERS INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

The gothi now turns back to the altar and pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. He then hammer-signs the bowl. Picking up the evergreen sprig and bowl, the gothi proceeds around the circle in a deosil (clock-wise) fashion, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the bowl, the gothi makes the sign of Gebo across the person's chest, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE THEE FRIGGA'S BLESSINGS. FRIGGA HEIL! (Answered by 'HAIL FRIGGA!')

The gothi makes the hammer-sign and proceeds to the next kinsman, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I LINK THEE TO THE LOVELY LLADY FREYJA. FREYJA HEIL! (Answered by 'HAIL FREYJA')

Again the gothi hammer-signs and proceeds to the next person:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE THEE THE BLESSINGS OF NERTHUS. NERTHUS HEIL! (Answered by 'Hail Nerthus')

This procedure is continued until all present have been blessed. The gothi then hands the sprig and bowl to his assistant so that he may be blessed as well. The gothi then replaces the sprig and bowl to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then takes the ceremonial rune bag around the circle in a deosil fashion, offering all an opportunity to draw a rune, saying:

MAY THIS RUNE GUIDE YOU AND THE NORNS PROTECT YOU.

Each kinsman then contemplates his chosen rune during the following Second Reading. Once the gothi has completed the circle, he returns the rune bag to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then stands to one side of the altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the Second Reading.

Second Reading

The gothi's assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

GODDESS

(By David Lane)

**YOU BORE THE CHILDREN OF OUR PEOPLE;
RAISED THEM BOLD AND PROUD AND FREE;
TOLD THEM TALES OF THOR AND WOTAN
AND THE MAIDEN VALKYRIE.**

**THEY TOOK A GODDESS FROM HER TEMPLE
AND A SISTER OF THE SUN;
MADE HER SHUFFLE IN A CONVENT
AS A BARREN, SEXLESS NUN.**

**YOU ARE THE GODDESS OF FERTILITY,
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR NAME:
APHRODITE, SIF OR ISHTAR -
CAST OFF THAT CHRISTIAN SHAME!**

**PRAY NO MORE BOWED IN SUBMISSION,
NOR ON A BENDED KNEE.
GIVE UNTO CAESAR WHAT IS CAESAR'S
IS A CREED OF SLAVERY.**

**NATURE MADE YOU BEAUTIFUL,
ALL ASGARD'S GREAT DELIGHT.
AS A GODDESS OF OUR PEOPLE,
INSPIRE ARYAN MEN TO FIGHT.**

**YOU ARE THE GODDESS OF FERTILITY,
NO MATTER WHAT YOUR NAME:
APHRODITE, SIF OR ISHTAR -
CAST OFF THAT CHRISTIAN SHAME!
HAIL FRIGGA! HAIL FREYJA! HAIL NERTHUS!**

The assistant now takes another look at his chosen rune, then hammer-signs himself. He then returns his rune to the bag and motions the others to do the same. When all of the runes are replaced, the assistant again hammersigns himself, then returns to his position in the circle.

Memory Horn

The gothi now steps to the front of the altar, picks up the pre-filled mead horn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high, he formally opens the sumbel-aspect of the blot, saying:

**HEAR ME, ALL YEE BEINGS BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALLS CHILDREN. HAIL
TO THEE WHO LISTEN!**

He pauses briefly, then with horn still on high, says:

A TOAST TO THE GODESSES! FRIGGA! HEARKEN, SACRED ALL-MOTHER! QUEEN OF ASGARD! I RAISE THIS HORN IN YOUR HONOR. HAIL FRIGGA!

The gothi takes a healthy pull from the horn, then takes the horn around the circle in a deosil fashion, offering all a chance to toast Frigga saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODESSES! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. FRIGGA HEIL!
(Answered by an appropriate toast and hailing)

After completing the circle, the gothi refills the horn and begins the second round, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODESSES! FREYJA! HEARKEN HIGH LADY! QUEEN OF THE VALKYRIES! THIS HORN I RAISE IN YOUR HONOR. HAIL FREYJA!

Again the gothi drinks a hearty pull from the horn, and then takes it again around the circle, deosil, offering all a chance to toast Freyja, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODDESSES! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. FREYJA HEIL!
(Answered by an appropriate toast and hailing)

Once completed, the gothi re-fills the horn for the third and final round, then holds the horn on high and says:

A TOAST TO THE GODDESSES! NERTHUS! HEARKEN FERTILITY MOTHER! QUEEN OF SPRINGTIME! I RAISE THIS HORN IN THY HONOR. HAIL NERTHUS!

The gothi takes a final pull from the horn, then takes it around the circle, giving all a chance to hail Nerthus, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODDESSES! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. NERTHUS HEIL! (Answered by an appropriate toast and hailing)

Once the horn has completed the final round, the gothi returns it to the altar and pours the remaining mead either on the ground or in the bowl. He then hammer-signs himself before Closing the Blot.

Closing

The gothi turns to face the circle, and while leaning on the staff, he pauses for a moment, and says the following:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY, BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES; OUR FOLK; OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS, WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR!!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself before removing the shield-wall. With rune staff and hammer in hand, the gothi, or shield-wall gothi, proceeds in a widdershins (counter clockwise) to the western quarter. With the hammer in one hand and the staff in the other, he assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING THE NEARBY CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AT BAY WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS AND PROTECTING THY KINDRED. HAIL THORI

He then proceeds widdershins to the southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HAIL FREY!

Now to the eastern quarter:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING OUT ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, at the northern quarter:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HAIL ODINI

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar. Turning to face the circle, he raises his right arm high overhead, and all join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

This Blot is over.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

High Feast of Ostara



The High Feast of Ostara is blot celebrating the full onslaught of Spring in it's rampant fullness, and is commonly held on the Spring Equinox.

This ceremony marks the full return of spring and the renewal of all that is good and positive in our world. With this sense of renewal, comes a time to renew love for our Family, Faith and Folk.

On this day sacrifice is given in to recognize the forces responsible for this renewal of the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. A full day of festivities should be planned for this event, and a Feast is very highly recommended, as this is one of the four major Holy Days of our faith. This can be followed by a sumbel wherein the memories of our deities, ancestors and folk are remembered. Small gifts should be given which are appropriate to this event, gifts given out of love for our faith and folk would be best suited for this.

Many kindreds celebrate with such activities as an egg hunt for the children, and baking competitions amongst the womenfolk. The Temple of Wotan endorses any and all such related activities, as kindreds and hearths should gather and share in the glory and positive energy, not just of the day, but of the coming together of the folk.

1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

**HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO
ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAD
AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO OUR GODS. STAV, HELGA VE
THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!**

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hails the forces.

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES THIS DAY. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR OUR GODS ON THIS, THE HIGH FEAST OF OSTARA. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAM! I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES TODAY. HAMARR, HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

The Gothi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Gothi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms skyward in the Elhaz form, and says:

FEHU... GEBO... JERA... BERKANO... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF OSTARA... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND DIVINE COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL EOSTRE!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

3. CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR HIGH FEAST OF OSTARA HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL EOSTRE!

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

4. SACRED FLAME.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL EOSTRE!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, then he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S HIGH FEAST OF OSTARA. THIS IS A FERTILITY FESTIVAL, AND MARKS THE FULL BLOOM SPRING. TODAY WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN HOPES OF SECURING A PLENTIFUL HARVEST AT THE END OF THE SEASON. WE ALSO HAIL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SKILLS AND HARD WORK ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR EXISTENCE, AND REMIND OURSELVES OF THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE AND OF A NEW YEAR BORN. HAIL EOSTRE! HAIL EOSTRE! HAIL EOSTRE!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Egg in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL NERTHUS! MOTHER EARTH! I CALL AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR BLOT TO ONE OF THY MANY DAUGHTERS, EOSTRE, AND THE SPROING YOU BOTH BRING. COME, SHARE IN THIS BLOT OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE HAIL NERTHUS!

HAIL IDUNNI! LOVELY LADY OF THE GOLDEN APPLES AND SPRING, GODDESS OF YOUTH, BEAUTY AND THIS SEASON. I INVOKE YOU TO JOIN AS WITNESS OF OUR SACRIFICE TO YOU AND YOUR SISTERS AT THE HIGH FEAST OF OSTARA, AND OUR LOVE FOR THE GODS & GODDESSES. HAIL IDUNNI!

HAIL SIF! GIVER OF WEALTH, KEEPER OF THE GOLDEN WHEAT. MAY YOUR WISDOM, STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE FILL US. I CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR HIGH FEAST OF OSTARA. HAIL SIF!

The Gothi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL EOSTRE, BRINGER OF NEW LIGHT! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOUR BLESSINGS OF FERTILITY, GROWTH AND ABUNDANCE TEAR ASSUNDER WINTER'S VEIL AND PROMISE THE NEW SPRING. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR LIGHT ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, EOSTRE, WHO IS KNOWN TO ALL BY MANY NAMES. MAY YOU DWELL ALWAYS IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAIL YOU AS PROVIDER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY AS WELL. FREE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! EOSTRE! COME, WE INVOKE YOU...

At this point the Gothi lowers the Egg and turns to face the Altar. He then replaces the Egg with the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Again turning to face the circle he raises the Meadhorn on high and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. EOSTRE! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. EOSTRE! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize Vali's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds deosil fashion around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF EOSTRE. EOSTRE HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL EOSTRE!)

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowl and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Then he returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

7. SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

SPRING

By: O'Suilleabham

**HOLDING ME CLOSE HER WARMTH AWAKES ME
MELTING MY EYES WITH THE RISING SUN,
FILLING MY LUNGS HER FRAGRANCE INVOKES ME
SCENT OF THE FLOWERS, FLOWERS LIKE NONE;
CHIRPING OF BIRDS ON THE WIND THEY CARRY
BEATING ALONG OUR HEARTS KEEP TIME,
THE TASTE OF HER KISS ON DAYS MAY VARY
A TASTE OF OUR LIFE THAT'S ALWAYS: SUBLIME...**

**TILLING THE EARTH WITH THE WIND IN OUR HAIR
STANDING ON SHADOWS WITH STONES FOR HANDS,
A BIRD SINGS HER SONG AS SHE TAKES TO THE AIR
A FLOWER FIRST BLOOMS AS A BEE NEARS TO LAND;
PLANTING OUR SEEDS WITH OUR LOVE AND OUR PRIDE
RAINING ON CARE AS THE TIME GOES BY,
GROWING AS ONE WE LIVE FOR: TO STRIDE
OUR WORK CARRIES ON EVEN AFTER WE DIE...**

**SOOTHING ME NOW HER HUG IT COOLS ME
MEETING MY EYES WITH THE PALE MOON-LIGHT,
BREATHING HER BREATH AT NIGHT QUELLS ME
WHILE GAZING UPON ME, TWINKLING DELIGHT;
THE TASTE OF HER KISS ON DAYS MAY VARY
THE TASTE OF OUR UNION, A PRIVATE PARADE,
HER HUMMING A SONG THE WINDS DO CARRY
TONIGHT'S LULLABY, "THE CRICKET SERENADE"...**

HAIL OSTARAI HAIL OSTARAI HAILOSTARAI"

The assistant now hammer signs himself and the returns to his position in the circle.

8. MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

**A TOAST TO THE GODS! GREAT EOSTRE! SHARE WITH US YOUR WEALTH AND
PROSPERITY THIS YEAR. HAIL EOSTRE!**

The Gothi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, EOSTRE HAIL!

After completing the circle the Gothi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowl, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

9. THE OATHS.

After the gothi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:

NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR HE MAKING OF OATHS AND SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS, GODDESSES AND KINSFOLK A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

The Gothi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. Gothi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oathee enters inner circle, taking oathring with him/her. Upon conclusion of the oath, Gothi will affirm oath and mark oather with rune staff as follows:

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?

Upon receiving affirmation, Gothi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

WITH THIS RUNESTAFF BEING A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL WOTAN!

10. CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HALL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL VALI!

The Gothi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL SIFI WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE PAID HONOR AND RESPECT TO ONE OF YOUR OWN. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HOLDS GREAT LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR YOU! FAR HAE, SIFI

HAIL IDUNNI! YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMING TODAY. RETURN NOW TO THY SACRED APPLE GROVE, WITH TIDINGS FOR OUR COMRADES THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) PAID RESPECT AND HONOR TO EOSTRE THIS DAY. FAR HAE, IDUNNI!

HAIL NERTHUS! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE MADE SACRIFICE TO THY DAUGHTER, EOSTRE. RETURN NOW TO THY HALLS, BEARING TIDINGS THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEARS GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR KIN THROUGHOUT THE NINE WORLDS! FAR HAE, NERTHUS!

HAIL EOSTRE! WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS, BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING INSPIRATION AND LOVE YOU SHOW FOR YOUR KIN ON MIDGARD! RETURN NOW, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU!

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY. NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN CELEBRATION OF THE HIGH FEAST OF OSTARA! FAR HAE!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO EOSTRE. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS DAY. FAR HAE!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF HE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TODAY. NOW GET THEE TO THY SUN-DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF OSTARA AS THIS KINDRED WILL! FAR HAE!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO VALI. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO OSTARA WITH US, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE! FAR HAE!

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW



Sigurdsdag

Sigurdsdag is another memorial blot, dedicated to Sigurd the Volsung, and is a good way to traditionally kick off the raiding season, as our ancestors knew it to be.

This ceremony marks the strength of the spring and the renewed strength of the folk as we venture further from our dwellings to take our place in the world.

On this day sacrifice is given in to Wotan, Thor and Tyr in recognition of the heroes blood flowing through our veins. Sigurd, surely one of the Einherjar is the memory we seize upon as a prototype for what a hero is in his prime. A sumbel wherein the memories of our deities, ancestors and folk are remembered is always recommended.

Some kindreds call on Freyja on this day, celebrating her as the Goddess who gets first pick of the battle-slain but we at the Temple of Wotan traditionally honor the major war gods and Sigurd. At this Blot we hail Sigurd the Volsung, who acted with courage and honor despite the various challenges facing him. What better example of courage and honor for Family, Faith and Folk? A perfect time to hail Sigurd!



1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAD AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO OUR GODS. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hails the forces.

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES THIS DAY. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR OUR GODS ON THIS, SIGURDAG. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAMI I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES TODAY. HAMARR, HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THORI

The Gothi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Gothi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms skyward in the Elhaz form, and says:

RAIDO... WUNJO... SOWILO... OTHALAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF SIGURD... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND DIVINE COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL SIGURD!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

3. CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR FEAST OF VALI FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL SIGURD!

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

4. SACRED FLAME.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL SIGURD!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, the he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

A Death Song

William Morris (1834-96)

*WHAT cometh here from west to east a-wending?
And who are these, the marchers stern and slow
We bear the message that the rich are sending
Aback to those who bade them wake and know.
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,*

*We ask'd them for a life of toilsome earning,
They bade us bide their leisure for our bread;
We crav'd to speak to tell our woeful learning:*

*They will not learn; they have no ears to hearken;
They turn their faces from the eyes of fate;
Their gay-lit halls shut out the skies that darken.
But, lol this dead man knocking at the gate.*

*Here lies the sign that we shall break our prison;
Amidst the storm he won a prisoner's rest;
But in the cloudy dawn the sun arisen
Brings us our day of work to win the best.
Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,
But one and all if they would dusk the day*

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Sword in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL WOTANI! GIVER OF WEALTH, MAY YOUR GREAT WISDOM GUIDE US. I CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR BLOT TO VALI, THY SON HAIL WOTANI!

HAIL THORI! DEFENDER OF MIDGARD, GOD OF STRENGTH, LIFE AND VIATLITY. INVOKE YOU TO JOIN AS WITNESS OF OUR RESPECT FOR SIGURD, AND OUR LOVE FOR THE GODS & GODDESSES. HAIL THORI!

HAIL TYR! GOD OF WARRIORS! I CALL UPON YOU TO SHARE IN THIS BLOT OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE. HAIL TYR!

The Gothi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL SIGURD, BRINGER OF VICTORY! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOUR STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE INSPIRE US AND PROMISE THE NEW SPRING. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR LIGHT ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, SIGURD, SON OF SIGMUND AND RIND. MAY YOU FOREVER DWELL ALWAYS IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAIL YOU AS DEFENDER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY AS WELL. STRENGTHEN US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! SIGURD! WE INVOKE YOU...

At this point the Gothi lowers the Sword and turns to face the Altar. He then replaces the Sword with the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Again turning to face the circle he raises the Meadhorn on high and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. SIGURD! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. SIGURD! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize Sigurd's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds deosil fashion around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF SIGURD. SIGURD HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL SIGURD!)

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowl and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Then he returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

7. SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

**Epic of Love & Creation
Urwald von Heimdall**

***Hear ye this story of old
a story to be told
of Sigurd the Volsung hero***

for-always it shall be known

**Entailed through the circle of fire
by his innermost heart's desire
Sigurd the Volsung rode
to the mountain of desire**

**Up o'er the flam'n pyre to do
for how would he make it through?
By honor, courage and dignity
A wooer shall get his woo.**

**Sleeps there the honor bound Princess
Brunhilda laid to rest
Pierced by a thorn of consequence
the Norns commenced Sig'a quest**

Sigurd:

**"Awaken my Princess
I give you the kiss of life
let death not now o'ertake you
I've come to make you my wife."**

Brunhilda:

**"My hero, my savior, my husband
I'm troth-plight to your love
you've passed the test of courage
now we share the gift of love."**

**It is the tasks of the ages
it is the union of the all
when two hearts are joined together
it is the creation of us all**

HAIL SIGURD! HAIL SIGURD! HAIL SIGURD!"

The assistant now hammer signs himself and the returns to his position in the circle.

8. MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. he then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. raising the horn on high he says:

**A TOAST TO THE GODS! GREAT SIGURD! SHARE WITH US YOUR WEALTH AND
PROSPERITY THIS YEAR. HAIL SIGURD!**

The Gothi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, SIGURD HAIL!

After completing the circle the Gothi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowl, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

9. THE OATHS.

After the gothi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:

NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MAKING OF OATHS AND SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS, GODDESSES AND KINSFOLK A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

The Gothi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. Gothi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oatheer enters inner circle, taking oathring with him/her. Upon conclusion of the oath, Gothi will affirm oath and mark oather with rune staff as follows:

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?

Upon receiving affirmation, Gothi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

WITH THIS RUNESTAFF, SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL WOTANI

10. CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL SIGURD!

The Gothi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL TYR! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE PAID HONOR AND RESPECT TO ONE OF YOUR OWN. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HOLDS GREAT LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR YOU! FAR HAIL, TYR!

HAIL THOR! YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMING TODAY. RETURN NOW TO THRUDHEIM, WITH TIDINGS FOR OUR COMRADES THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) PAID RESPECT AND HONOR TO SIGURD THIS DAY. FAR HAIL, THOR!

HAIL WOTANI WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE MADE SACRIFICE TO THY SON, SIGURD. RETURN NOW TO THY HALLS, VALHALLA AND VALASKJALF, BEARING TIDINGS THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEARS GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR KIN IN ASGARD! FAR HAIL WOTANI

**HAIL SIGURD! WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS,
BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING VALOR AND THE EXAMPLE YOU SET FOR YOUR KIN ON
MIDGARD! RETURN NOW TO ASGARD, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S
NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU!**

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

**MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY.
NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN
CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF SIGURD! FAR HAE!**

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

**MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE
GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO SIGURD. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST
HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS DAY. FAR HAE!**

Now to the Eastern quarter:

**HAIL THE FORCES OF THE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED
OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TODAY. NOW GET THEE TO
THY SUN DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF SIGURD AS THIS KINDRED
WILL! FAR HAE!**

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

**HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY
GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO SIGURD.
RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO SIGURD WITH US, KNOW
THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE! FAR HAE!**

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW



Summarsdag

Summarsdag marks the first day of Summer on the old Icelandic calendar. This is also the date of the traditional Victory Sacrifice, made to the Valfather. Historically, this is an extremely important blot, given in hopes of obtaining the Valfather's good graces during the upcoming raiding season.

Today we sacrifice in Wotan's honor in order to secure victory in the battles we may face, whatever their nature. This is an important Festival for today's warrior, and for today's Spirit-Warrior.

The Sigurd blót is named after the great folk-hero of our mythology, Sigurd, who is most commonly known as the "Dragon Slayer." This myth reminds us that life's battles, life's evils, should not be avoided, but met head-on, with a full throttle. We must be prepared to defend our folk community; our folkish beliefs; and our folk themselves. We must be prepared to stand tall against all which is harmful, and to conquer our own faults. That is the way of Sigurd, and the way of Wotan! Hail Victory!

Summarsdag Festival Sigurd blót

The festivities begin with the attending folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the altar. The gothi then enters the circle. A moment or two of silence is now observed in order to still the mind and to prepare those present for the rite at hand.

HAMMER HALLOWING

The gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds to erect a sacred shield-wall, and to hallow the ritual site. With the ceremonial hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, he faces north and assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr position saying:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS HOF AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VETHETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODINI!

Lowering the hammer and staff, the gothi proceeds in a deosil (clockwise) fashion to the eastern quarter. Again assuming the elhaz position, he says:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO KEEP ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE AT BAY WITH A SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THIS RITUAL SITE. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDUR!

Continuing on to the southern quarter, the gothi repeats the same basic procedure as above, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I INVOKE THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

Finally, to the west, again repeating the above procedure and saying:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! KEEP THE NEARBY CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AWAY WITH A SACRED SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING THY KINDRED AND HALLOWING OUR FOLK. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA! HAIL THOR!

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar and hammer-signs himself before Opening the Circle.

OPENING THE CIRCLE

The gothi turns to face the circle and pauses for a moment. He then assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, and says:

ANSUZ...ANSUZ...ANSUZ...

SIG-TIWAZ...SIG-TYR...SIG TYR...SIG-TYR...

ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...

MIGHTY RUNES OF THE FATHER OF VICTORY - WOTAN;

VICTORY RUNES AN DLIFE RUNE;

I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS, AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL WOTANI SIG HEIL!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself, then returns to the altar in preparation for the consecration.

CONSECRATION

While facing the altar, the gothi raises the rune staff overhead. He then uses the staff to trace the sign of the hammer over the altar calling out:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE ASIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCE FOR OUR VICTORY SACRIFICE HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE ASIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL WOTAN!!!

The gothi returns the staff to the altar, and hammer-signs himself before lighting the Sacred Flames.

SACRED FLAMES

The gothi now lights the torches or the candles on the altar. He then turns to face the circle. The gothi, while leaning on his staff, recites the below passage as his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or, if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY, AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME, SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN ITS' SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL WOTANI HAIL VICTORY!! SIG HEIL!!!

He now hammer-signs himself, then steps to the side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward to read the First Reading.

FIRST READING

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S SUMMARSDAG FESTIVAL. THIS FESTIVAL MARKS THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER ON THE OLD ICELANDIC CALENDAR. THIS IS ALSO THE DATE OF THE TRADITIONAL VICTORY SACRIFICE, THE SIGURDBLOT. TODAY WE OFFER A GRAND SACRIFICE IN WOTAN'S HONOR IN HOPES OF SECURING VICTORY IN THE BATTLES WE MAY FACE. WE ALSO HAIL MIGHTY SIGURD, THE DRAGON SLAYER, HERO OF OUR FOLK, AS WE PREPARE OURSELVES TO STAND TALL AGAINST ALL ODDS. HAIL WOTANI! HAIL SIGURDI! HAIL VICTORY!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may perform the Invocation.

INVOCATION

The gothi now steps to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up his rune-staff and turns to face the circle. Holding the staff high overhead, he assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After a brief pause he begins the Invocation:

TODAY WE HAVE GATHERED AGAIN AS BROTHERS AND WARRIORS. GATHERED 'ROUND THE SACRED FIRE, GAZE INTO ITS DEPTHS, MY BROTHERS. HEIMDALL! GOD OF NEED-FIRE, OF GOOD-FIRE, MAY YOUR FLAME ALWAYS BE OUR FRIEND. MAY IT WARM US AND COMFORT US AND SHARE ITS LIGHT; JUST AS IT MAY SCORCH THE BUTTS OF OUR FOES! LOOK INTO THE FLAMES, MY KINSMEN. WITHIN RESIDES THE NEED-RUNE. AS SIGURD SAW THE NEED AND ACTED, SO MAY WE. HAIL SIGURDI! AVENGER OF KIN AND HOME DEFENDER! HAIL SIGURDI! HIGH HERO! SIG HEIL!

Here the gothi pauses for a moment, then continues with:

MIGHTY GODS OF VICTORY, BE WITH US, STRENGTHEN US. WILL OUR FOLK TO AWAKEN, AWAKEN AND ARISE. ARISE TO VICTORY!

HAIL TYR! RELENTLESS SWORD GOD, STEADFAST AS THE WORLD PILLAR! BRINGER OF JUSTICE AND VICTORY, TYR HEIL!

HAIL THOR! TREMENDOUS HAMMER GOD, PROTECTOR OF THE NINE WORLDS! HERO OF GODS AND MEN, THOR HEIL!

HAIL ULLR! ANCIENT SHIELD-GOD, TRUSTY COMRADE AT ARMS! PATRON OF THE HOLY DUEL, ULLR HEIL!

HAIL AEGER! HAIL RAN! SUPREME RULERS OF THE OCEAN DEEP! GRANT OUR WAR-BOATS SAFE PASSAGE AND GRANT US VICTORY IN OUR BATTLES!

Again the gothi pauses briefly, then continues the Invocation:

HAIL WOTANI! VICTORY GOD! VALFATHER! MIGHTY CHIEFTAIN OF THE AESIR, HEIL! TODAY WE OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR IN HOPES OF OBTAINING SUPREME VICTORY IN ALL OUR BATTLES. WOTANI! YOUR VOICE IS HEARD IN THE BATTLE-CRY!

OF THE WARRIOR, AND FELT IN THE WILD FURY OF THE BERSERKS. YOU WHO SACRIFICED AT MIMIR'S WELL AND HUNG FOR NINE DAYS AND NIGHTS ON YGGDRASIL. O YOU, BEARER OF THE SPEAR AND FATHER OF VICTORY! WOTANI! HEAR US, MIGHTY ONE, HEED OUR SUMMONS AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED. COME TO US NOW.....

**HELMED-GOD!
LORE-MASTER!
RAVEN GOD!
TERRIBLE ONE!
ONE-EYED GOD!
WOLF-FEEDER!
WODANAZI
BOLVERKI
VALFATHER!**

WOTANI! GOD OF SACRIFICE! GOD OF WARRIORS! GOD OF VICTORY! WE CALL UPON YOU AND YOUR STRENGTH TO AID US IN THE BATTLES THAT WE FACE. WOTANI! GREAT GOD OF GODS! WE INVOKE YOU....

The gothi now turns to face the altar and sets down the rune staff. He picks up the pre-filled mead horn and again turns to face the circle. Raising it on high, he continues with:

....AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS; OUR DETERMINATION; OUR STRUGGLES. WOTANI! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. WOTANI! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR POWERS OF VICTORY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

The gothi now turns to face the altar and pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. He then hammer-signs the bowl. With the evergreen sprig and bowl in hand, he begins deosil around the circle to bless the folk. Making the sign of Gebo with the sprig, he says:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU VICTORY FROM WOTANI! SIG HEIL! (ANSWERED BY 'HAIL VICTORY!')

After completing the circle, the gothi hands the sprig and bowl to his assistant, in order that he be blessed as well. Once completed, the gothi returns the sprig and the bowl to the altar. He then hammer-signs himself and steps to one side of the altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the Second Reading.

SECOND READING

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and recites the following:

**VALHALLA BOUND
BY RON MCVAN**

**TO VICTORY I AM BORN,
AND NOT TO COMMON TOIL;
I KEEP MY SIGHTS ON THE BOUNDLESS HEIGHTS,
TO MY KINSMEN I AM LOYAL.**

**LIKE THE SPARTAN AT THERMOPYLE,
THAT SPIRIT IS A PART OF ME;
TO SEEK A NOBLE DESTINY,
WITH AN IRON WILL UNDYING.**

**THERE ARE NO FOES I FEIGN TO MEET,
NO CHALLENGE THAT I DO NOT GREET;
AND WHEN LIFE IS AT LAST COMPLETE,
MY FINAL BALLTE WON -**

**I'LL STAND WITH WOTAN EYE TO EYE,
WITH FREYJA RIDE TO ASGARD HIGH;
INTREPID SPIRITS NEVER DIE,
IN THAT GLEAMING, GRAND VALHALLA.**

**THE HERO'S LEGEND TRAVELS FAR,
LIKE WARRIORS OF THE EINHERJAR;
SO REACH, BRAVE KINSMAN, FOR THAT STAR,
THAT NO ONE CAN DENY YOU.**

**THROUGH ENDLESS TIME OUR SPIRITS POUR,
AS WAVES AGAINST A STORMY SHORE;
AND LIFE GOES ON FOR EVERMORE,
LIKE THE FAME OF A GREAT MAN'S DEEDS -
LIKE THE FAME OF A GREAT MAN'S DEEDS.**

HAIL WOTANI HAIL SIGURDI HAIL VICTORY! SIG HEIL!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may begin the Memory Horn.

MEMORY HORN

The gothi now steps to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up the mead horn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high, he opens the Sumbel aspect of the blot, saying:

**HEAR ME, ALL YOU HALLOWED BEINGS BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALLS
CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE WHO LISTEN.**

Here the gothi pauses briefly, then continues with:

**A TOAST TO THE GODS! WOTANI I RAISE THIS HORN IN YOUR HONOR. RAISE THE
SPEAR OF VICTORY OVER THE HEADS OF OUR FOES ONCE AGAIN. HAIL WOTANI**

After taking a healthy drink of the horn, the gothi takes the horn deosil around the circle, giving all a chance to share in the mead, saying:

**A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. WOTAN
HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH AN APPROPRIATE TOAST, OR A SIMPLE 'HAIL WOTANI'
AFTER DRINKING FROM THE HORN)**

After completing the circle, the gothi refills the horn and begins the second round saying:

A HORN IN HONOR OF THE GREAT FOLK HERO, SIGURD. MAY YOUR SPIRIT EVER LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS OF OUR WARRIORS. HAIL SIGURD!

The gothi again takes a long pull from the horn, then proceeds deosil to each kinsman around the circle saying:

A HORN TO SIGURD! SHARE THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. SIGURD HEIL! (ANSWERED BY A TOAST TO SIGURD!)

Once the second round is completed, the gothi refills the horn, then begins the third and final round. He then lifts the horn on high and says:

A FINAL HORN TO VICTORY! MAY OUR BATTLES EVER BE FACED WITH COURAGE, AND VICTORY BE OURS. HAIL VICTORY!

After taking good-sized drink, the gothi again takes the horn around the circle, saying:

A HORN TO VICTORY! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. SIG HEIL! (ANSWERED BY A TOAST TO VICTORY, OR PERHAPS 'HAIL VICTORY!')

After the circle is completed, the gothi returns to the altar and pours the remaining mead in the horn on the ground, or, indoors, into the bowl. He then hammer-signs himself and prepares to close the blot.

CLOSING

The gothi now picks up his rune staff and turns to face the circle. While leaning on his staff, he says:

ONCE MORE THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY, BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR WISDOM, AND TO USE THIS KNOWLEDGE TO AID AND ADVANCE OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK, AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS, WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL WOTAN!!!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself. The gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, proceeds to remove the sacred shield-wall. With hallowing hammer and rune staff in hand, he walks widdershins (counter clockwise) to the western quarter. With the hammer in one hand and the staff in the other he assumes the Elhaz stadhagald position, saying:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING THE CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AT BAY WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THY KINDRED AND HALLOWING OUR FOLK. HAIL THORI

He then proceeds widdershins to the southern quarter and repeats the same format as above, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR ERECTING A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HAIL FREY!

Now to the eastern quarter, saying:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING ALL IMPURE INFLUENCES AT BAY, WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, to the northern quarter:

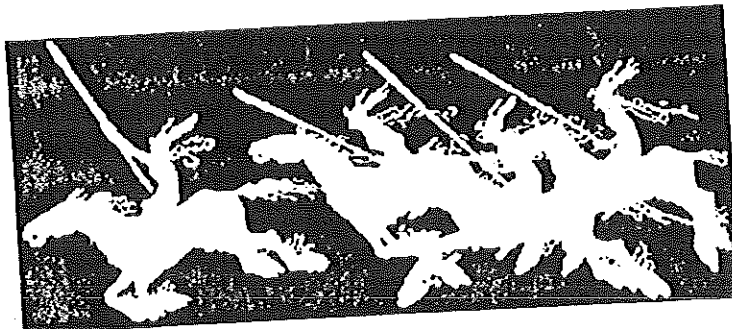
HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR ERECTING A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS HOF AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HAIL ODIN!

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar. He then turns to face the circle, and all present join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THIS BLOT IS OVER.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW



Walpurgisnacht/May Day Freyja Blot

Today we actual combine two sacred Festivals into one grand celebration: also known as May Eve or Beltane, and May Day. Both May Eve and May Day are linked to the Vanir; couple that to the fact that May is a month of fertility and new life, a time to celebrate the birth of Spring, and we have the Freyja Blot.

Walpurgisnacht is a celebration in honor of the ancient Teutonic Goddess Walburga. This is the night of the Wild Hunt, and the night that the witches associated with the Cult of Frey dance on the bracken. The mysteries of death predominate when we think of the heroic dead. They are like layers of the past; their powerful lives continuing to shape the present through the acts, reputation and physical offspring they engendered while they were alive. Just as past events manifest among us, being constantly reborn, so the mound buried dead will eventually be reborn into their clan, to be with us once again. Seeds under the ground; actions that have not yet borne fruit; and souls waiting between incarnations, all deal with the essential idea of Walburg.

May Day sings of life, the results of gestation and deeds brought to fruition. It is a day to celebrate the visible world around us, and especially the life that animates it. Grim Holda has overseen death and germination; now glorious Freyja reigns over nature and souls reborn, a day of rebirth!

The Maypole has a long history, going back almost as far back as Carole dancing itself. In warmer times and places when fire was not acceptable as a dance center, the erection of a pole in lieu of a natural and more awkward tree enabled a special dance to developed at sites considered sacred. The pole itself represents the cosmic axis and the phallic power of the sky god.

The old European custom of burning a tree in the May bonfire represented the sacrificial death of the God. In some districts of Scandinavia, the May fires are still called balefires. May Day, a day of mystery; a day of rebirth; a day to Hail High Freyja!



Walpurgisnacht/May Day

Freyja Blot

This ceremony begins with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the altar. The gothi then enters the circle. A moment of silence shall be observed in order to still the mind, and to prepare those gathered for the ritual at hand.

HAMMER HALLOWING

The gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds to erect a sacred shield-wall, hallowing the ritual site. With hallowing hammer in one hand and rune-staff in the other, he faces north and assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, saying:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I HEREBY CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD AND TO HALLOW OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODINI!

The gothi now proceeds in a deosil (clockwise) fashion to the eastern quarter. Once again, assuming the elhaz stadhagaldr position, he says:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THIS GROUND. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDURI!

The gothi now proceeds to the southern quarter. Repeating the same format as above, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A HOLY SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING OUR FOLK. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

The gothi now makes his way to the western quarter and repeats the above procedure, saying:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THORI!

The gothi now returns (deosil) to the altar, replacing the staff and hammer. He then hammer-signs himself before Opening the Circle.

OPENING THE CIRCLE

The gothi now turns to face the circle. He pauses briefly, then assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, saying:

FEHU...KENNAZ...JERA...BERKANO...EHWAZ...INGWAZ...

ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...

MIGHTY RUNES OF THE GREAT GODDESS FREYJA...

LIFE-RUNE; MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION:

I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS, AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL FREYJA!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself, then turns back to the altar in preparation of the Consecration.

CONSECRATION

Picking up the rune-staff, the gothi raises his rune staff high overhead to trace the sign of the hammer over the altar, while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE ASIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCE FOR OUR MAY DAY CELEBRATION HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE ASIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL FREYJA!!!

The gothi returns the staff to the altar and hammer-signs himself before lighting the Sacred Flames.

SACRED FLAMES

The gothi now lights the torches, or, if indoors, the candles on the altar. With rune-staff in hand, he turns to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff, he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit or, if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAMES OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY, AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME, SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN ITS' SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL ODIN! HAIL FREYJA!

The gothi returns the staff to the altar and hammer-signs himself, then steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward to read the First Reading.

FIRST READING

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and to read the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S MAY DAY FESTIVAL. MAY DAY CELEBRATES BOTH THE HEROIC DEAD AND NEW LIFE, INCLUDING THE BIRTH OF SPRING. THIS FESTIVAL HONORS THE MYSTERIES OF DEATH; YET IT ALSO SINGS OF LIFE. IT IS A DAY TO CELEBRATE THE VISIBLE WORLD AROUND US, AND ESPECIALLY THE LIFE THAT ANIMATES IT. TODAY WE OFFER SACRIFICE TO HIGH LADY FREYJA. FOR IT IS SHE WHO HOUSES THE SLAIN WARRIORS; AS WELL AS REPRESENTING THE FORCES OF FERTILITY. FREYJA, QUEEN OF THE VALKYRIES! WE HAIL YOU. HAIL FREYJA! HAIL FREYJA! HAIL FREYJA!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may perform the Invocation.

INVOCATION

The gothi now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up the ceremonial necklace and turns to face the circle. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagald position,

holding the necklace high overhead. He then begins the invocation, saying:

GODS AND GODDESSES OF THE AESIR AND VANIR HIGH, WE HAIL YOU. WE SEE YOUR WORKINGS IN ALL OF CREATION. IN THE VIBRANT GREEN GROWTH; IN THE WILD WOODS; AND IN THE CROP-FILLED FIELDS. YOU ARE THERE IN ALL GROWING THINGS. WE HEAR YOU IN THE WIND AND IN THE ROARING THUNDER, THE LAUGHTER OF THE STREAM; AND THE FALL OF THE RAIN,. IN ALL OF THE ELEMENTS WE SEE AND HEAR YOU. IN ALL YOUR PRESENCE IS EVER KNOWN TO US. BY YOUR GUIDANCE MAY WE BE PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY AND STRONG.

The gothi pauses for a brief moment, then continues in a loud voice:

HAIL ODIN! SKY-CLOAKED WANDERER! WE CALL TO THEE TO BE HERE WITH US FOR OUR MAY DAY CELEBRATION. ODIN! ALL-FATHER! WE HAIL YOU.

HAIL NJORDI! FATHER OF THE HIGH SEA! WE CALL OUT TO YOU TO JOIN IS IN OUR FESTIVITIES THIS DAY. NJORDI GOD OF RICHES! WE HAIL YOU.

HAIL FREY! HIGH LORD OF THE VANIR! BE WITH US AS WE HONOR LADY FREYJA HERE THIS DAY WITH SACRIFICE. FREY! TWIN OF FREYJA! WE HAIL YOU.

HAIL HEIMDALL! HAIL ULLR AND SKADI! HAIL ALL THE MIGHTY GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD! HAIL ALL THEIR KINI! JOIN US FOR OUR MAY DAY FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES, WE HAIL YOU.

Again the gothi pauses briefly, then continues with:

HAIL FREYJA! HIGH LADY OF THE VANIR! GREAT GODDESS OF DESIRE! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS MAY DAY. FREYJA! RIDER OF THE WIND! YOU WHO HOUSE THE HEROIC DEAD IN FOLKVANG AND WHOSE GREAT HALL SESSRUMNIR SHINES WITH THE BEAUTY OF THOSE WITHIN. YOU WHO TAUGHT THE VALFATHER THE MYSTERIES OF MAGIC. O YOU, QUEEN OF THE VALKYRIES AND GODDESS MOST BEAUTIFUL AND SENSUAL. FREYJA! HIGH LADY! WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE THIS MAY DAY. LET YOUR ESSENCE STIR THE WINDS OF MIDGARD ONCE AGAIN. FREYJA! HEAR US! HEED OUR SUMMONS AS WE SUMMON YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED. COME TO US NOW...

MISTRESS OF MAGIC!

LOVE GODDESS!

VANA-DISI

MISTRESS OF THE EVENING STARS!

FERTILITY GODDESS!

WIFE OF OD!

GODDESS BEAUTIFUL IN TEARS!

MARDOLLI

POSSESSOR OF THE HEROIC SLAIN!

GREAT FREYJA! MISTRESS OF RADIANT BEAUTY! AS SPRING IS REBORN, WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR PRESENCE ONCE AGAIN. LADY FREYJA! GODDESS OF THE FERTILE EARTH! COME TO US NOW IN THIS RITE. FREYJA! WE INVOKE YOU...

The gothi turns back to the altar and replaces the ceremonial necklace. He then picks up the mead horn (pre-filled), turns to face the circle and to raise the horn on high, saying:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS; OUR DETERMINATION; OUR STRUGGLES. FREYJAI ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR, AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. LADY FREYJAI TAKE OUR GIFTS AND POUR NOW YOUR DIVINE ESSENCE INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

Here the gothi lowers the horn and again turns to face the altar. He then pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. He sets down the horn and hammer-signs the bowl. With evergreen sprig and bowl in hand, he proceeds around the circle in a deosil (clock-wise) fashion, blessing the folk. While making the sign of Gebo with the sprig dipped in mead, he says:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I LINK THEE TO FREYJA AND HER DIVINE ESSENCE. FREYJA HEIL! (ANSWERED BY 'HAIL FREYJA!')

After blessing all the gathered folk, the gothi hands the sprig and bowl to his assistant, so that the gothi may share in the blessing. He then retrieves the sprig and bowl and replaces them on the altar. The gothi now hammer-signs himself, and steps to one side of the altar so that his assistant may come forward to recite the Second Reading.

SECOND READING

The gothi's assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

WALPURGISNACHT!

**PHANTOMS WITH SHIFTING SHAPES
THUNDER DOWN TO GROUND THEMSELVES,
LIKE FALLEN VALKYRIES
TOWARD A GLOWERING LIGHT BEYOND THE TREES -
WALPURGISNACHT!
IF ONLY FREYJA WOULD RIDE WITH ME TONIGHT,
TO HEAR AGAIN THE THUNDER-LIKE ROAR
WHICH ISSUES FORTH FROM CLOUDS OF NAMELESS SHADOWS,
AND FORGOTTEN BONES -
WALPURGISNACHT!
WOULD SHE STILL RECALL THAT SPECIAL CHALLENGE,
OFFSET BY A FULL MOON RISING
TO THE BARK OF THE NORTH WIND,
OR AN AMBER SUNSET?
WALPURGISNACHT!
AND WOULD SHE, THEN, STAND PATIENTLY BY
WHILE EACH SPECTRE WAITED LIKE A GREAT BIRD OF PREY,
TO SWOOP UPON US, UNBIDDEN,
AS WE RODE TO CRASH LIKE ARMIES,
AMONGST THE DIRT AND LEAVES OF A DARKENING ROAD
INTO THAT RADIANT DAWN OF MAY?
WALPURGISNACHT!**

**THE WIND IS WANDERING WILD,
THROUGH THIS NIGHT'S OPEN WAYS.
HAIL FREYJA! HAIL FREYJA! HAIL FREYJA!**

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may proceed with the Memory Horn aspect.

MEMORY HORN

The gothi now steps to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up the pre-filled mead horn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high, he begins the sumbel-aspect by saying:

HEAR ME, ALL YEE HALLOWED BEINGS BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALLS CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE WHO LISTEN!

He pauses briefly, then with horn still on high, says:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! FREYJA! HEARKEN MIGHTY VAL-QUEEN! LADY OF THE VANIR! SHARE WITH US YOUR BEAUTY; YOUR WARMTH, AND YOUR VITALITY THIS MAY DAY. FREYJA HEIL!

The gothi takes a healthy pull from the horn, then proceeds deosil around the circle offering those gathered an opportunity to toast Freyja saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW THE HORN OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE SACRED DRINK OF THE GODS. FREYJA HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST TO FREYJA, OR JUST A 'HAIL FREYJA')

Once the gothi has completed the circle, he returns to the altar. He pours the remaining mead in the horn either on the ground or, if indoors, into the bowl. He then hammer-signs himself before Closing the Blot.

CLOSING

With the rune staff in hand, the gothi turns to face the circle. Leaning on the staff, he pauses for a moment, then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY, BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES; OUR FOLK; OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS, WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL FREYJA!!!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself. With rune staff and hammer in hand, the gothi, or shield-wall gothi, proceeds widdershins (counter clockwise) to remove the shield-wall. Beginning at the western quarter, he assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position with hammer and staff high overhead, and says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HAIL THOR!

He then continues widdershins to the southern quarter, and repeats the same basic procedure, he saying:

**HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL;
PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING OUR FOLK. HAIL FREY!**

Now to the eastern quarter:

**HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL;
PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THIS GROUND. HAIL BALDUR!**

Finally, at the northern quarter:

**HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR SHARING YOUR SACRED
SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS.
HAIL ODIN!**

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar. He then turns to face the circle, and all join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

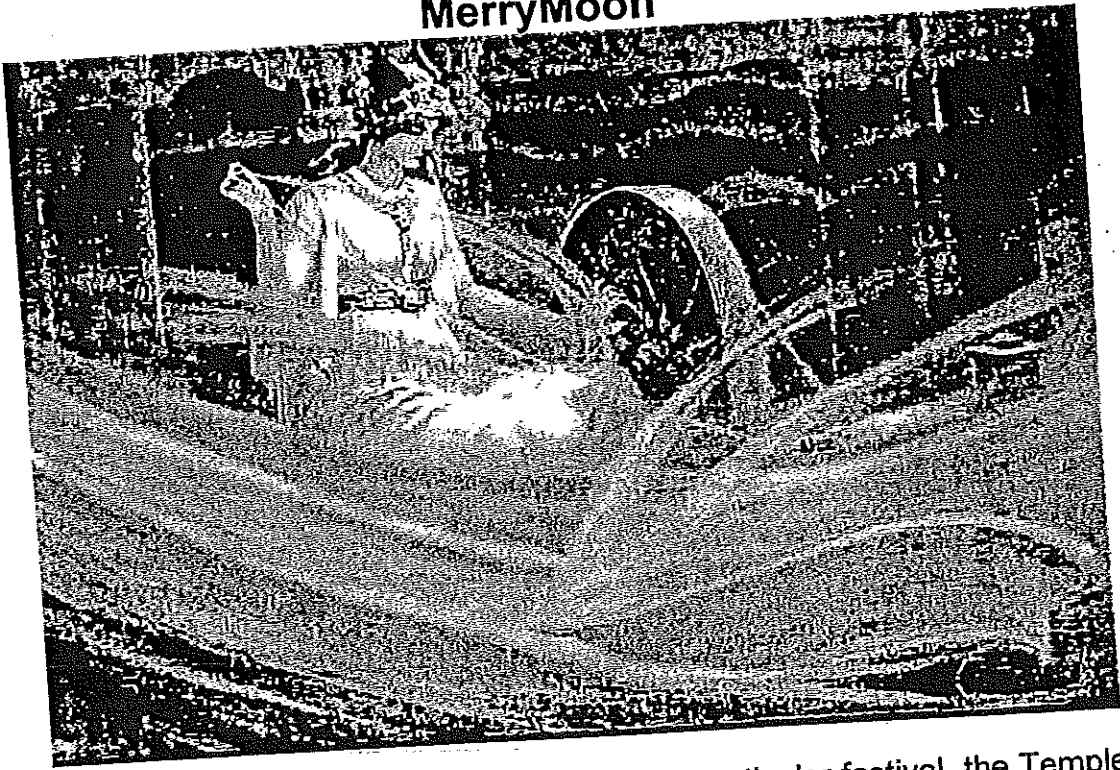
THIS BLOT IS OVER.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW





MerryMoon



Although no record exists in the Lore regarding this particular festival, the Temple of Wotan, in an effort to adapt our faith to meet the needs of both our Gods and Folk, has established a festival to honor and commemorate motherhood. This then is MerryMoon.

A Frigga and Asynjur Blot is held on this day, honoring the mother aspect of the Goddesses, with primary focus being on the AllMother.

Those kindreds and hearths, which celebrate this festival normally, gather, blot and then join in feast. This would be followed by a sumbel. All is geared toward honoring mothers of our folk: current mothers, past mothers and mothers-to-be.

While it would seem on the surface that a blot celebrating feminine aspects such as this might not be for kinsmen to participate, nothing could be further from the truth.

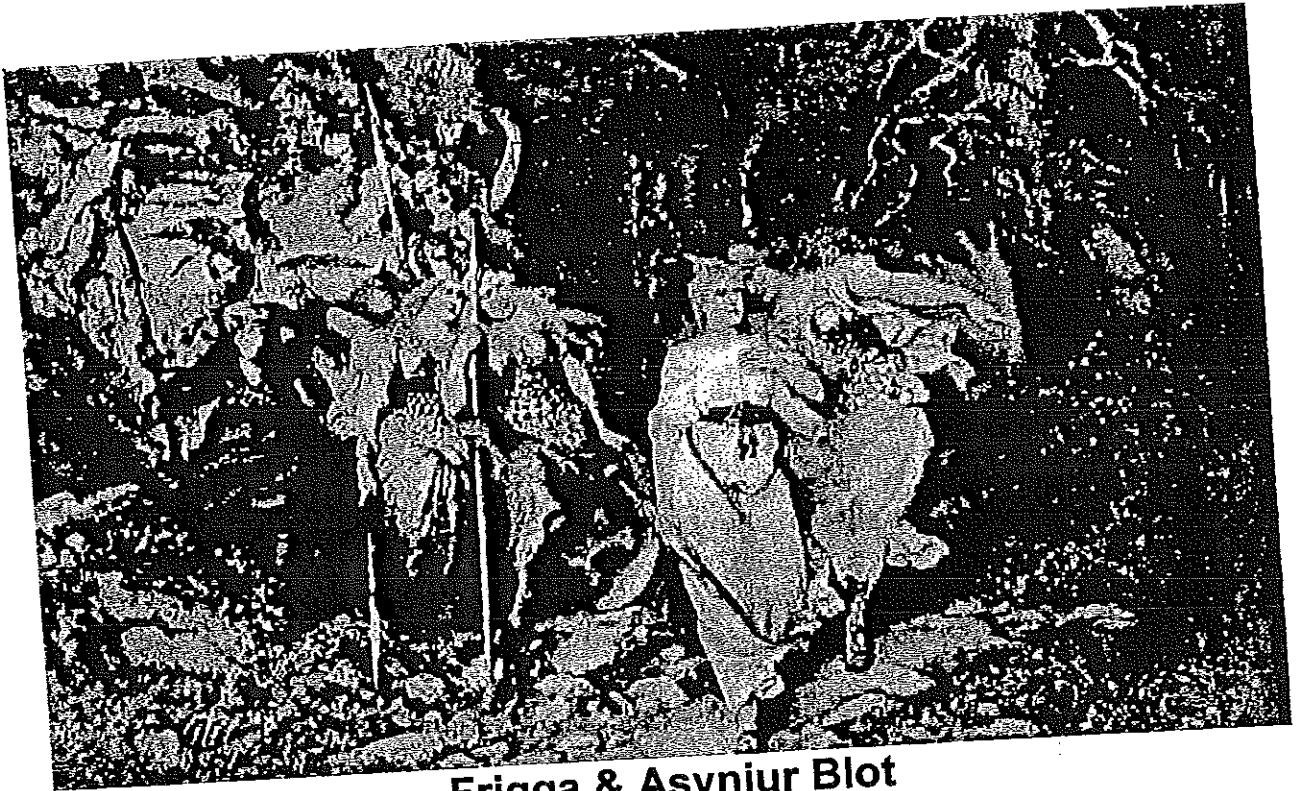
Tacitus tells us, in Germania, sect 7 that:

These are the witnesses whom each man reverences most highly, whose praise he most desires. It is to their mothers and wives that they go to have their wounds treated, and the women are not afraid to count and compare gashes. They also carry supplies of food to the combatants and encourage them.

He continues in section 8:

It stands on the record that armies already wavering and on the point of collapse have been rallied by women, pleading heroically with their men, thrusting forward bared bosoms, and making them realize the imminent prospect of enslavement – a fate which the Germans fear more desperately for their women than for themselves.

We could go on quoting the annals of ancient history, but the fact remains the same, it is one of our duties as kinsmen to honor our mothers and motherhood. In this regard, the Goddesses welcome male participation in this blot.



Frigga & Asynjur Blot

1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAD AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO OUR GODDESSES. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hails the forces.

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR GODDESSES THIS DAY. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR OUR GODDESSES ON THIS, THE FESTEVAL O MERRYMOON. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAMI I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO OUR GODDESSES TODAY. HAMARR, HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

The Gothi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Gothi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms skyward in the Elhaz form, and says:

BERKANO... GEBO... LAGUZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF OUR FOLK... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND DIVINE COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL FRIGGA!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

3. CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR FESTIVAL OF MERRYMOON HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL THE ASYNJUR!

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

4. SACRED FLAME.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL VALI!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, the he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now

steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S FESTIVAL OF MERRYMOON. THIS IS A CELEBRATORY FESTIVAL, AND MARKS THE DAY WE REMEMBER AND HONOR MOTHERS AND MOTHERHOOD. TODAY WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN HOPES OF SECURING A FUTURE FOR OUR FOLK, THROUGH OUR MOTHERS. WE ALSO HAIL THE WOMEN WHOSE SKILLS AND HARD WORK ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR EXISTENCE, AND REMIND OURSELVES OF THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE AND OF THE NEW BORN. HAIL FRIGGA!

Frigga
by Erich Campbell

**Far seeing, Fensalir's ruler
Frith-Bringer, spinning fair the strands!
Distaff's wielder
The doom-web knows.
Household's Goddess, blessing well
Bringing wholeness in out homes.
We hail you, holy Ase-Queen!**

**Saga -- In Sokkvabekk speaking, sounding Wodan's counsel!
Sunna -- Golden shield, shining ever over us!
Eir -- Best in Leech-craft, boon of the life-coffer!
Gefjon -- Maiden's Keeper, may you well be hailed!
Fulla -- We hail you bright goddess, Fullness of Earth's Bounty!
Sjofn -- Turning our thoughts to Love, great is that gift!
Lofn -- Gaining the grants for the love-bound folk!
Vara -- Goddess of binding oaths, vengeance on the breakers!
Vor -- All-knowing, great in her awareness!
Syn -- Truth's Safe-hold, denying the wrongly spoken case!
Hlin -- Protectress of Frigga's folk, refuge in life's fray!
Snotra -- Sure goddess wise, prudent in speech!
Gna -- Rider of the horse Hofvarpnir, swift and holy messenger!**

Welcome all goddesses unmentioned!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Staghorn in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL THE ASYNJURI! GIVERS OF LIFE AND WEALTH, MAY YOUR GREAT LOVE OF OUR FOLK GUIDE US. I CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR BLOT TO MOTHERHOOD. HAIL THE ASYNJURI!

HAIL FREYJAI! LOVELY LADY OF THE VANIR, GODDESS OF LOVE, EROTIC AND TRU. I INVOKE YOU TO JOIN AS WITNESS OF OUR RESPECT FOR VALI, AND OUR LOVE FOR THE GODS & GODDESSES. HAIL FREYJAI!

HAIL NERTHUSI! MOTHER EARTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO SHARE IN THIS BLOT OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE. HAIL NERTHUSI!

The Gothi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL FRIGGA, ALLMOTHER, QUEEN OF THE ASYNJUR, MOTHER OF HOPE! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOUR WHEEL SPINS THE THREADS OF THE PROMISE OF A NEW WYRD. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR LIGHT ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, FRIGGA, MOTHER OF BALDUR. MAY YOU FOREVER DWELL IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAIL YOU AS MOTHER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY. STRENGTHEN US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! FRIGGA! WE INVOKE YOU...

At this point the Gothi lowers the Staghorn and turns to face the Altar. He then replaces the Staghorn with the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Again turning to face the circle he raises the Meadhorn on high and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. FRIGGA! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. FRIGGA! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize Frigga's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds deosil fashion around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF FRIGGA. FRIGGA HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL FRIGGA!)

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowl and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Then he returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

7. SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

A Poem to Frigga by Diana Paxson

*From the darkness of earth I arise, Fjorgin's first daughter,
Bending like the birch tree at the bounds of the glacier.
I am the stillness at the heart of the world, I am its silence,
And tonight the God of Ecstasy will whisper runes in my arms.
Rams with white fleeces roam free round my dwelling;
In my hall stands a loom; Norns spin the thread for my weaving.
It is warped with the fates of the world; only I see the pattern,
And tonight the wisest of gods will lie twined in my arms.
I sit at the head of the hearth, twelve maidens blaze around me,
Sparks spun from my brightness. In their faces I am reflected;
I am all the women of all the worlds. I am the Beloved,
And tonight the Wanderer will come home to my arms.
Giver of Law am I and High Seat of Sovereignty.
All-father counsels kings, but it is I who choose them.
I teach magic to queens; I give names to the nations,
And tonight the High One will rule all in my arms.
Golden the god I gave birth to, fairest of all living.
All beings I bade help, till Laufey's child betrayed him.
My son will return when all else I love is ended
All this I know, but I say nothing.
And tonight the father of Balder will weep in my arms.*

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

8. MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

**A TOAST TO THE GODESSES! BEAUTIFUL ASYNJURI! SHARE WITH US YOUR WEALTH
AND PROSPERITY THIS YEAR. HAIL FRIGGA!**

The Gothi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE ASYNJURI! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, FRIGGA HAIL!

After completing the circle the Gothi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowl, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

9. THE OATHS.

After the gothi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:

NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MAKING OF OATHS AND SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS, GODDESSES AND KINSFOLK A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

The Gothi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. Gothi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oatheer enters inner circle, taking oathring with him/her. Upon conclusion of the oath, Gothi will affirm oath and mark oather with rune staff as follows:

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?

Upon receiving affirmation, Gothi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

WITH THIS RUNESTAFF BEING A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL WOTAN!

10. CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL FRIGGA!

The Gothi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL THE ASYNJURI WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS, BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING TRUST AND THE EXAMPLE YOU SET FOR YOUR KIN ON MIDGARD! RETURN NOW TO ASGARD, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU!

HAIL NERTHUS! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE PAID HONOR AND RESPECT TO YOUR OWN. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HOLDS GREAT LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR YOU! FAR HAE, NERTHUS!

HAIL FREYJA! YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMING TODAY. RETURN NOW TO FOLKVANGR AND SESSRUMNIR, WITH TIDINGS FOR OUR COMRADES THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) PAID RESPECT AND HONOR TO MOTHERS AND THE ASYNJUR THIS DAY. FAR HAE, FREYJA!

HAIL FRIGGA! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE MADE SACRIFICE TO THEE AND THE ASYNJUR. RETURN NOW TO THY HALLS, FENSALIR

AND GLADSHEIM, BEARING TIDINGS THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEARS GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR KIN IN ASGARD AND OUR MOTHERS! FAR HÆL FRIGGA!

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY. NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF MERRYMOON! FAR HÆL!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO MOTHERS AND THE ASYNJUR. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS DAY. FAR HÆL!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF THE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TODAY. NOW GET THEE TO THY SUN DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF MOTHERS AND MOTHERHOOD AS THIS KINDRED WILL! FAR HÆL!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO VALI. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO FRIGGA AND THE ASYNJUR WITH US, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE! FAR HÆL!

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW

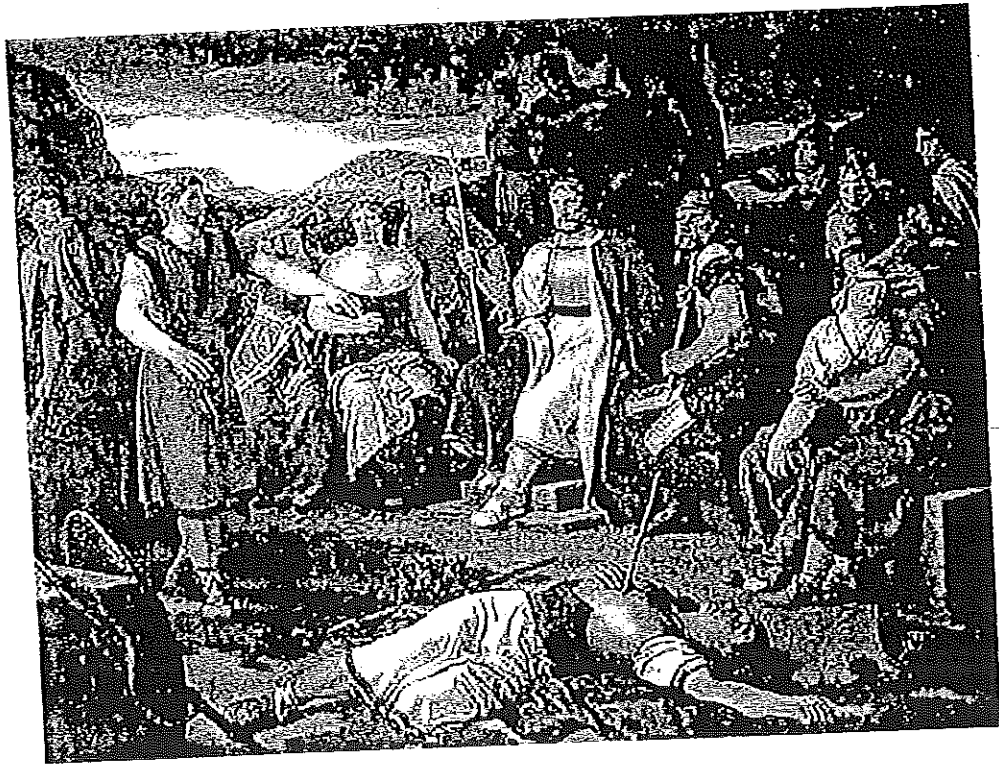
Midsummer

Today marks the Summer Solstice, the longest day, and the shortest night of the year. The sun is at its peak; the Yearly Wheel having made a half revolution since the Yule Tide. After today, the days gradually grow shorter, the nights longer, until the Wheel brings us back once again to the Winter Solstice. But today we celebrate the years "coming of age," its achievement of maturity. We hail life and remember the heel of Creation.

On this day we honor the most cherished and beloved of all the Gods - Baldur; symbol of the Sun, light and truth. Son of Odin and Frigga, he is known as the noblest and most handsome of the Aesir. His flowing blond hair was thought to be the radiant beams of the summer sun, which warmed the earth and spirits of the Aryan races. Today we hold a grand sacrifice in Baldur's honor. This is an important blot; one of the four major blots.

Midsummer is also the traditional date of the Althing gathering. This General Assembly was, and is, a time of justice; of law and order; and a time for the swearing of oaths. A Tyr blot is appropriate during such festivals, as the Sword-God symbolizes all of these aspects.

We have three ancient customs associated with Midsummer that have survived throughout time; the traditional bonfires; the procession with torches around the fields; and the custom of rolling the fiery wheel down a hillside. Midsummer is also a time of dancing, festivities, divination, love, weddings, merry-making, and just general partying. A time to Hail Baldur! And a time to Hail Tyr!



Midsummer Festival

Baldur Blot

The Baldur Blot begins with the folk being gathered in a semi-circle around the altar. The gothi (and the shield-wall gothi, if one is available) now enters the circle and hammersigns himself at the altar. All present will observe a few moments of silence in order to still the mind, and to prepare for the rite at hand.

Hammer Hallowing

The gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds to erect a sacred shield-wall, and to hallow the sacrifice site. With the rune staff in one hand, and the ceremonial hammer in the other, he faces north and assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, and says:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I HEREBY CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND TO HALLOW THESE SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODINI!

The gothi proceeds in a deosil (clockwise) fashion to the eastern quarter. Repeating the above format, he says:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO KEEP THE NEARBY CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE AT BAY WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDUR!

And now to the southern quarter, again repeating the above procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY DIVINE POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL; TO PROTECT THIS HOF AND TO HALLOW THESE GROUNDS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

Finally, to the western quarter, again repeating the same format, saying:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! KEEP ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE AT BAY WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, PROTECT OUR FOLK AND HALLOW OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THORI!

The gothi now returns the staff and hammer to the altar. He then hammer-signs himself before Opening the Circle.

Opening the Circle

The gothi now turns to face the circle. He pauses briefly, then assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, and says:

**SOWILO...DAGAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...
MIGHTY RUNES OF THE BRIGHT-GOD, BALDUR...
LIFE-RUNE; MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION:
I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND CLEANSE THIS GATHERING
OF WARRIORS, AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS
AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL BALDUR!**

The gothi now hammer-signs himself before Consecrating the altar.

Consecration

With rune staff in hand, the gothi faces the altar and makes the sign of the hammer over the altar with the staff, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE ASIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCE FOR OUR MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE ASIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL BALDUR!!!

The gothi now replaces the staff on the altar. He then hammer-signs himself before lighting the Sacred Flames.

Sacred Flames

The torches on the side of the altar are now lighted by the gothi, or, if indoors, he lights the candles on the altar. With rune staff in hand, he turns to face the circle. While leaning on his staff, he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or, if indoors, he lights the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY, AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME, SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN ITS' SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL ODIN! HAIL BALDUR!

The gothi replaces the staff on the altar. He then hammer-signs himself. He now steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward to read the First Reading.

First Reading

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and to read the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) MIDSUMMER BALDUR BLOT FESTIVAL. TODAY MARKS THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR. THE WHEEL HAS COMPLETED A HALF REVOLUTION SINCE THE YULETIDE, AND NOW OUR MIGHTY SUNNA STANDS AT HER ZENITH. TODAY WE HONOR MIGHTY SUNNA; WE HAIL HER LIGHT AND THE LIFE SHE AFFORDS US. WE ALSO HONOR THE BRIGHT-GOD, BALDUR ON THIS DAY, FOR THE SOLSTICE IS CONSIDERED TO SYMBOLIZE THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH, AND OF HIS DESCENT INTO THE UNDER-WORLD. BALDUR MAY HAVE FALLEN TO DARKNESS, BUT LIKE MIGHTY SUNNA, HE WILL ONE DAY RISE ANEW. HAIL BALDUR! HAIL BALDUR! HAIL BALDUR!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle for the gothi to perform the Invocation.

Invocation

The gothi now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up his rune-staff and turns to face the circle. He pauses for a moment, then raises the staff high overhead in the Elhaz stadhagaldr form, and begins the Invocation, saying:

HARKEN, MIGHTY GODS AND GODDESSES OF MIDSUMMER HIGH! HEAR OUR REDE AS WE SING YOUR PRAISE THIS DAY.

Here the gothi pauses briefly, then continues in a loud voice with:

HAIL ODINI MIGHTY CHIEFTAIN OF VALHALLA AND FATHER OF BALDUR THE BRIGHT. ODIN, WE HAIL YOU THIS DAY.

HAIL FRIGGA! GREAT QUEEN OF ASGARD AND MOTHER OF BALDUR THE BEAUTIFUL. FRIGGA, WE CALL OUT TO YOU THIS DAY.

HAIL NANNA! LOVELY GODDESS OF THE GROWING FIELDS AND DEVOTED WIFE OF BALDUR. NANNA, WE HAIL YOU.

HAIL FORSETI! STURDY PEACEMAKER OF THE GODS AND LOYAL SON OF BALDUR THE GOOD. FORSETI, WE HAIL YOU.

HAIL FREY! HAIL THOR! HAIL FREYJA AND SIF! HAIL ALL THE AESIR AND VANIR! HAIL MIGHTY SUNNA, THE SUSTAINER OF LIFE!

Again the gothi pauses momentarily, then continues with:

HAIL BALDUR! BALDUR THE BEAUTIFUL! BALDUR THE PURE! JOY OF GOD-KIN AND MORTAL-KIN! THIS MIDSUMMER WE ARE HERE TO HONOR YOU WITH SACRIFICE. BALDUR! NOBLE ONE! YOU WHOSE SHINING RADIANCE LIGHTS A GOLDEN AGE. YOU WHO WALKS BOLD AND PROUD AND WITH THE PURE HEART OF GOODNESS. O YOU WHO WAS SLAIN BY DARKNESS AND DECEIT WHICH DESPISED YOUR BEAUTY. BALDUR! YOU FELL ONLY TO RISE AGAIN, AN ETERNAL HOPE OF A GREATER AND GLORIOUS ERA. WE HAIL YOUR SPEEDY RETURN. BALDUR! MAY STRENGTH AND HONOR BE WITH YOU AND ALL OF OUR FOLK ALWAYS. BALDUR! HEAR US! HEED OUR SUMMONS AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED. COME TO US NOW.....

**BRIGHT-GOD!
BOLD WARRIOR!
WHITE-BROWED-GOD!
MASTER OF REBIRTH!
SON OF ODIN AND FRIGGA!
NANNA'S LOVER!
FORSETI'S FATHER!
HODER'S VICTIM!
GOD FOR WHOM THE WORLD WEEPS!**

GREAT BALDUR! MIGHTY FIGHTER OF BATTLES AND DARER OF DEEDS. BALDUR! NOBEL WARRIOR! YOUR STRENGTH INSPIRES US AND YOUR BRIGHTNESS WARMS OUR SPIRITS, AS THE FIRES OF MIDSUMMER BALDUR! WE INVOKE YOU....

At this point, the gothi lowers the staff and turns to face the altar. He replaces the staff and picks up the pre-filled mead horn. Turning to face the circle, he raises the horn on high and says:

....AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS; OUR DETERMINATION; OUR STRUGGLES. BALDURI ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. BALDURI TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

Lowering the horn, the gothi now turns to face the altar. He then pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. After hammer-signing the bowl, he proceeds around the circle in a deosil fashion with the bowl and evergreen sprig in hand in order to bless each of the folk. Making the sign of Gebo with the sprig dipped in mead, he says:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE THEE BALDUR'S BLESSING. BALDUR HEIL! (ANSWERED BY 'HAIL BALDUR!')

Once all the folk have been blessed, the gothi then hands the sprig and bowl to his assistant, so that he may bless the gothi. Once completed, the gothi returns the sprig and the bowl to the altar. He then hammer-signs himself and steps to one side of the altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the Second Reading.

Second Reading

The gothi's assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

Ode to Baldur

Of all the twelve found Wotan's throne,
Baldur the Beautiful alone.
The Sun-God, good and pure and bright;
Was loved by all, as all love light.

But in each human soul we find
That night's dark Hodur, Baldur's brother blind,
Is born and waxeth strong as he;
For blind is ever evil born, as bear cubs be,
Night is the cloak of evil; but all good
Hath ever clad in shining garments stood.

The busy Loki, tempter from old,
Still forward treads incessant, and doth hold
The blind one's murder hand, whose quick-launched spear
Pierceth young Baldur's breast, that sun of Valhall's sphere!

You fall to dark, O Baldur, to rise anew!
As the sun falls to rise.
For in this is creation and promise.

Through the turning of day to week,
Month to year, decade to millennium, and on;
We see in the light and light's return,
A future golden age
For those who will strive for it.

All hail to thee, Baldur -
Shining-God of Asgard and our Folk!
Hail Baldur! Hail Baldur! Hail Baldur!

After hammer-signing himself, the assistant then returns to his position in the circle in order for the Sunwheel Lighting to take place.

**** Sunwheel Lighting**

At this point the gothi, or an assistant, will light the sacred Sun Wheel. Once it is lighted, the gothi turns to face the circle. While leaning on his staff, he says:

***HAIL MIGHTY SUNNA! HAIL LIFE! HAIL THE WHEEL OF CREATION! HAIL TO ALL
GATHERED HERE, WHO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR ANCESTORS, AND TO THE SUMMER
SOLSTICE!***

***THE WHEEL NOW BURNS, SYMBOL OF SACRED RADIANCE BOTH INNER AND OUTER
THAT WE STRIVE TOWARDS. HAIL HEALTH AND STRENGTH AND VICTORY! BALDUR
RETURNED AND HOPE RESTORED. HAIL THE LIGHT! HAIL BALDUR! HAIL BALDUR!
HAIL BALDUR!***

The gothi now hammer-signs himself before beginning the Memory Horn

**** Note:** This aspect is not included in the nine-aspect foundation, for it is only used at Yule and Midsummer. If the rite is performed outdoors, a large, wooden Sunwheel should be burnt in the fire-pit. If indoors, a small, paper wheel may be burnt over the bowl.

Memory Horn

The gothi now steps to the front of the altar, picks up the pre-filled mead horn, and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high, he formally begins the sumbel-aspect of the blot, saying: and begins the Sumbel aspect of the blot by saying:

***HEAR ME, ALL YOU HALLOWED BEINGS BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALLS
CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE WHO LISTEN!***

He pauses for a short moment, then continues with:

***A TOAST TO THE GODS! I RAISE THIS HORN IN HONOR OF THE NOBLE-WARRIOR,
SON OF WOTAN AND FRIGGA, BALDUR THE BRIGHT. LET US SHARE IN THE WAYS
OF THY VIRTUE. MAY STRENGTH AND HONOR BE WITH YOU AND ALL OUR FOLK
ALWAYS. HAIL BALDUR!***

Here the gothi takes a healthy drink from the horn, then proceeds deosil around the circle, offering all present a chance to toast Baldur, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE HORN OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE SACRED DRINK OF THE GODS. BALDUR HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST TO BALDUR - OR JUST A 'HAIL BALDUR!')

Once the horn has completed the circle, the gothi again raises the horn on high and toasts the gods, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! A HORN IN HONOR OF THE HIGH ONE, GATHER OF BALDUR THE GOOD, WOTAN. SHARE WITH US YOUR SUPREME INSPIRATION OF WISDOM, COURAGE AND STRENGTH. MAY WE STRIVE TO BRING HONOR TO YOU AND ALL OUR FOLK ALWAYS. HAIL WOTAN!

Once again the gothi takes a healthy pull from the horn, then takes it around the circle offering all an opportunity to toast Wotan, or another deity, and to drink from the horn, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE HORN OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE SACRED DRINK OF THE GODS! WOTAN HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST, OR 'HAIL WOTAN!')

Once the gothi has completed the second round of toasts, he has the horn refilled, then raises it for a third and final round, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! A FINAL HORN IN HONOR OF THE DEVOTED ONE, THE EVER-FAITHFUL AND EVER-LOVING NANNA! LET US EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF YOUR LOVING DEVOTION. MAY WE STRIVE TO HONOR YOU AND ALL THAT YOU STAND FOR. HAIL NANNA!

After taking a final drink from the horn, he takes it around the circle for a last round of toasts, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE HORN OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE SACRED DRINK OF THE GODS. NANNA HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST, OR 'HAIL NANNA!')

Once the horn has completed the circle for the third round, the gothi returns to the altar and pours the remaining mead onto the ground, or, indoors, into the bowl. He then hammer-signs himself before closing the blot.

Closing

The gothi now takes up his rune staff and turns to face the circle. While leaning on the staff, he pauses briefly, then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY, BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES; OUR FOLK; OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THOSE ANCESTRAL WAYS, WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR. HAIL BALDUR!!!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself, then proceeds to remove the shield-wall. With hammer and rune staff in hand, he travels widdershins (counter clockwise) to the western quarter. Forming the Elhaz stadhagaldr position with the hammer in one hand and the staff in the other, he says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING OUT ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLD AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HAIL THOR!

He then continues widdershins to the southern quarter. Repeating the above procedure, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR THY SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR KINDRED AND HALLOWING THIS RITUAL AREA. HAIL FREY!

Now to the eastern quarter, saying:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE AT BAY, WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, at the north:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS SITE OF SACRIFICE AND HALLOWING THESE SURROUNDINGS. HAIL ODIN!

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar. He then turns to face the circle, and all present join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

This Blot has ended.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

Midsummer Festival

Tyr Blot

This blot opens with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the altar. Now the gothi (and the shield-wall gothi, if one is available) enters the circle. All present observe a few moments of silence in order to still the mind, and to prepare those present for the rite at hand.

Hammer Hallowing

The gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds to erect a mighty shield-wall, and to hallow the ritual site. After hammer-signing himself at the altar, he collects the hallowing hammer and rune-staff, and faces north. With hammer in one hand and staff in the other, he assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, and says:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I HEREBY CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND TO HALLOW OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODINI!

Proceeding in a deosil (clockwise) fashion, the gothi walks to the eastern quarter and repeats the above format, saying:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY SACRED POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR KINDRED AND HALLOWING THIS RITUAL AREA.. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDURI!

Now to the southern quarter, again repeating the above procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND TO HALLOW OUR FOLK WITH A SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

Finally, to the west:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THESE GROUNDS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THORI!

Returning to the altar, the gothi returns the staff and hammer, then hammer-signs himself before Opening the Circle.

Opening the Circle

The gothi now turns to face the circle. He pauses for a moment to gather his thoughts, assumes the Tiwaz-elhaz stadhagaldr form, saying:

**TIWAZ...TIWAZ...TIWAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...
MIGHTY WARRIOR-RUNE OF THE ANCIENT SWORD-GOD, TYR...
LIFE-RUNE; MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION:
I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND CLEANSE THIS GATHERING
OF WARRIORS, AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS
AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL TYR!**

The gothi now hammer-signs himself and prepares for the Consecration.

Consecration

With rune staff in hand, the gothi faces the altar and proceeds to make the sign of the hammer with the staff over the altar, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE ASIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCE FOR OUR MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE ASIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL TYR!!!

The gothi hammer-signs himself, then prepares the light the Sacred Flames.

Sacred Flames

The gothi now lights the torches on the side of the altar (if indoors, the candles on the altar). Then with rune staff in hand, he turns to face the circle. Leaning on his staff, he recites the following as his assistant lights the fire in the pit (if indoors, the candles at the four points of the circle):

IN THE NAMES OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY, AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME, SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN ITS' SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL ODIN! HAIL TYR!

The gothi replaces the staff on the altar. He hammer-signs himself and steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward to read the First Reading.

First Reading

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and to read the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) MIDSUMMER TYR BLOT FESTIVAL. MIDSUMMER IS AN ESPECIALLY SACRED TIME OF YEAR, WITH OUR EVER MIGHTY SUNNA STANDING AT HER ZENITH. TODAY MARKS THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, TRADITIONALLY THE TIME OUR FOREBEARERS HELD THE ANNUAL ALL-THING. NOW IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRADITIONS OF OUR ANCESTORS, WE OFFER A GRAND SACRIFICE IN HONOR OF THE THING-GOD, TYR. TYR, THE GOD WHO GAVE MEANING TO THE WORD SACRIFICE. TYR, ANCIENT GOD OF OUR FOLK, TODAY WE HAIL YOU. HAIL TYR! HAIL TYR! HAIL TYR!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may begin the Invocation.

Invocation

Now the gothi steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. With the ceremonial sword (or rune-staff) in hand, he turns to face the circle. He pauses for a moment, then raises the sword on high in the Elhaz stadhagaldr position, saying:

HARKEN, MIGHTY ASGARDIAN SPIRITS, HEAR OUR REDE AS WE SUMMON THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF MIDSUMMER.

Here the gothi pauses briefly, then continues with:

HAIL WOTANI! GOD OF WAR! GOD OF SACRIFICE! GOD OF HEROES! YOU WHOSE EVERY ACTION GOES TOWARDS THE BETTERMENT OF THE FOLK. WOTANI GOD OF GODS, HAIL!

HAIL BALDURI! GOD OF REGENERATION! GOD OF GOODNESS! GOD OF MIDSUMMER! YOU WHOSE TRAGIC TALE STIRS THE HEARTS OF OUR FOLK. BALDURI SON OF WOTAN, HAIL!

HAIL FREY! GOD OF PROSPERITY! GOD OF WARRIORS! GOD OF THE LAND! YOU WHOSE WEALTH GOES TOWARDS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE FOLK. FREY! GOD OF THE SWEDES, HAIL!

HAIL THORI! GOD OF COMBAT! GOD OF DEFENSE! GOD OF THE FEAST! YOU WHOSE MARTIAL APPETITE INSPIRES AND WARMS THE HEART OF THE FOLK. THORI GOD OF THE HAMMER, HAIL!

HAIL WOTAN, BALDUR, FREY AND THORI! HAIL FRIGGA, NANNA, FREYJA AND SIFI! HAIL ALL THE HOLY AESIR AND VANIR! HAIL ALL OF THEIR KIN! HAIL MIGHTY SUNNA, SUSTAINER OF LIFE.

Again the gothi pauses momentarily, then continues with:

HAIL TYRI! GOD OF BRAVERY! GOD OF JUSTICE! GOD OF SELF-SACRIFICE! YOU WHOSE EVERY THOUGHT AND ACTION GOES TOWARDS THE FURTHERANCE AND SAFETY OF THE FOLK. TYRI GOD OF WARRIORS, HAIL!

TYRI! RELENTLESS SWORD-GOD, STEADFAST AS THE WORLD-PILLAR. BRINGER OF JUSTICE AND COURAGE AND VICTORY IN THE FACE OF BATTLE. TYRI ANCIENT WAR-GOD OF OUR FOLK. THIS MIDSUMMER WE ARE HERE TO HONOR YOU WITH SACRIFICE. TYRI AWESOME SKY-GOD OF OUR FATHER'S FATHERS. YOU WHO GAVE US THE VERY WORD FOR "GOD," TYRI YOUR RUNE WE CARVED ON SWORD AND SPEAR; IT IS YOU WE CALL UPON IN TIMES OF STRIFE; AND IT IS YOUR NAME THAT WE SWEAR OATHS ON OUT OF SACRED RESPECT. TYRI GOD OF THE "TYR-VALIANT." TYRI GOD OF THE "TYR-WISE!" TYRI YOU WHO INSPIRE US IN COURAGE AND SACRIFICE AND REASSURE US IN THE WORKS OF JUSTICE AND ORDER. O YOU, BINDER OF THE WOLF AND BRINGER OF VICTORY! TODAY, AS IN DAYS OF OLD, WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR PRESENCE. TYRI HEAR US! HEED OUR SUMMONS AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED. COME TO US NOW.....

**TIWAZI
JUST-GOD!
WOLF-BINDER!
THING-GOD!
SWORD-COMPANION!
WAR-GOD!
ONE-HANDED-GOD!
GOD OF OATHS!
SAXNOT!**

GREAT TYR! YOUR STORY OF SELF-SACRIFICE HAS THRILLED OUR ANCESTORS AROUND COUNTLESS CAMPFIRES AND BY THE HEARTHES OF A HUNDRED TIMES A HAUNDRED HALLS. TYR! INSPIRED BY YOUR BRAVERY, WE CALL OUT TO YOU AS OUR GOD. TYR! WE INVOKE YOU....

Lowering the sword, the gothi turns to face the altar. After replacing the sword, he picks up the pre-filled mead horn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high and says:

....AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS; OUR DETERMINATION; OUR STRUGGLES. TYR! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. TYR! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AND TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

After a brief pause, the gothi lowers the horn and again turns to face the altar. He now pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. After hammer-signing the bowl, he proceeds around the circle in a deosil fashion with the evergreen sprig and bowl in hand in order to bless the gathered folk. Making the sign of Gebo with the sprig dipped in mead, he says:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I LINK THEE TO THE ANCIENT SKY-GOD OF OUR FOLK. TYR HEIL! (ANSWERED BY 'HAIL TYR!')

Once all the gathered folk have been blessed, the gothi hands his assistant the sprig and bowl so that he may bless the gothi. Once completed, the gothi returns the sprig and the bowl to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to read the Second Reading.

Second Reading

The gothi's assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

The Hero's Quest

(by Ron McVan)

*I draw my strength from an ageless spring
Through blood and long tradition -
On mountains high in azure sky
My Gods direct my mission.
I heed the words of Wotan we..
As he leads me on my task,
And a thousand voices from an age unknown
Ring down from a mystic past.
And I long to reach Valhalla,
And I yearn for the days of glory,
And I clutch that life of greatness -
As in legend, fame and story.
There's a swelling in my spirit -
There's a time to do or die;
I'll know it when I hear it -
It's as clear as Wotan's eye.*

Life is just a schoolroom
 Until our final day;
 And who are we to question
 The Laws of Nature's Way?
 To thyself be true, and family too,
 For my race I pledge my all;
 And when life's toil has run me hard
 I'll still be standing tall.
 It's the mystery of the blood, they say,
 The spirit of our kind -
 That binds us in this mortal clay
 And charts the course through time.
 Many fight for freedom,
 Though never are they free;
 But I fight to make my people proud -
 The best that I can be.
 A striving to the higher self -
 The best that I can be.
 And I long to reach Valhalla,
 And I yearn for the days of glory,
 And I clutch that life of greatness -
 As in legend, fame and story.

Hail Tyr! Hail Tyr! Hail Tyr!

After hammer-signing himself, the assistant then returns to his position in the circle in order for the Oath Swearing to begin.

**** Oath Swearing**

At this point the gothi will ask if there are any present who would wish to step forward and swear an oath, or perhaps dedicate themselves to Tyr. This can be done in front of the altar, by placing his hand on the ceremonial-oath-ring or other artifact. Once completed, the gothi hammer-signs himself, then prepares for the Memory Horn.

**** Note:** This aspect is not included in the nine-aspect foundation, for it is only used twice a year: at Twelfth Night and Midsummer.

Memory Horn

The gothi now takes the pre-filled mead horn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn or high, he begins by saying:

HEAR ME, ALL YEE BEINGS BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALLS CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE WHO LISTEN!

He pauses briefly, then continues with:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! I RAISE THIS HORN IN HONOR OF THE THING-GOD TYR. TO THE STRENGTH, DETERMINATION AND COURAGE THAT YOUR SACRED NAME INVOKES. TYR HEIL!

After taking a healthy pull on the horn, he takes the horn around the circle in a deosil fashion, giving all present an opportunity to Hail Tyr, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE SACRED MEAD OF INSPIRATION. TYR HEIL! (ANSWERED BY 'HAIL TYR!')

After completing the circle, the gothi returns the horn to the altar. He pours the remaining mead in the horn either on the ground in front of the altar, or, if indoors, in the bowl. He then hammer-signs himself and prepares to Close the Blot.

Closing

Taking up the rune staff, the gothi turns to face the circle. While leaning on the staff, he recites the following:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY, BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES; OUR FOLK; OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS, WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL TYR!!!

The gothi returns the staff to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then prepares to remove the shield-wall. Again taking up the rune staff and hallowing hammer in hand, the gothi, or shield-wall gothi, proceeds in a widdershins (counter clockwise) fashion to the western quarter. With the hammer in one hand and the staff in the other, he assumes the Elhaz stadhagald position and says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THESE GROUNDS. HAIL THOR!

He then proceeds widdershins to the southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THIS SITE AND HALLOWING OUR FOLK WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HAIL FREY!

Now to the eastern quarter:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR KINDRED AND HALLOWING THIS RITUAL AREA. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, at the north:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS SITE AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HAIL ODIN!

The gothi returns the hammer and staff to the altar, then turns to face the circle. All present join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

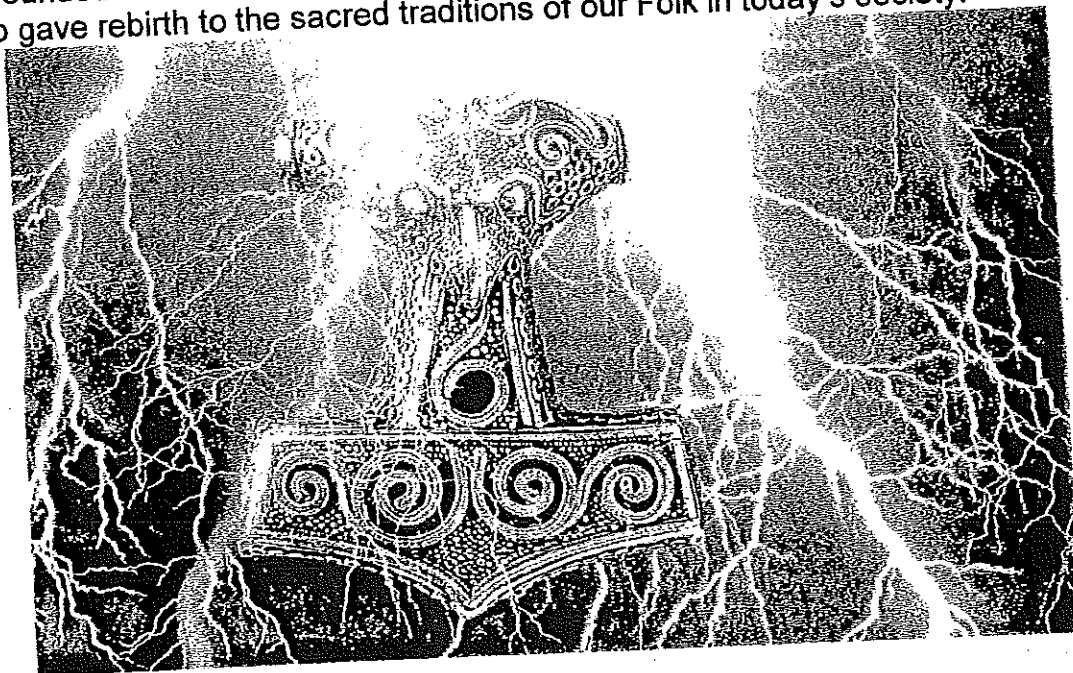
IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

This Blot is over.

Founder's Day

This is a festival of modern reconstruction of our faith. Apparently, the Germanic peoples on the continent held a gathering much like the Althing of Icelandic tradition approximately six to eight weeks after MidSummer, whereas the Icelanders would hold their Althing on or about Midsummer.

Founder's Day is a day to blot to Tyr, the God of the Thing, and to pay special memorium to those who founded or reestablished our faith in the most recent century. It was these men and women who gave rebirth to the sacred traditions of our Folk in today's society.



HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the sword in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAD AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO OUR GODS. SVERD, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hails the forces.

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES THIS DAY. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR OUR GODS ON THIS, THE FOUNDERS DAY. SVERD, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAMI I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES TODAY. HAMARR, HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THOR!

The Gothi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Gothi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms sky-ward in the Elhaz form, and says:

TIWAZ... TIWAZ... TIWAZ... GEBO... GEBO... GEBO... MIGHTY RUNES OF TYR... SWORD RUNE, MIGHTY FORCES OF PROTECTION, JUSTICE AND SACRIFICE. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF FOOLKS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL TYR!

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR FOUNDER'S DAY FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL TYR!

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

SACRED FLAME.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE

LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL TYRI

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, then he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION. THIS IS A COMMEMORATIVE FESTIVAL, AND MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE HARVEST SEASON. TODAY WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO REKINDLED THE REAWAKENING OF OUR FOLK TO THE ANCIENT WAYS. WE ALSO HAIL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SKILLS AND HARD WORK ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR EXISTENCE, AND REMIND OURSELVES OF THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE AND OF A NEW ERA BORN. HAIL TYRI HAIL TYRI HAIL TYRI

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

INVOCATION.

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Sword in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL WOTANI! GIVER OF WEALTH, MAY YOUR GREAT WISDOM GUIDE US. I CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR BLOT TO TYR, THY COMRADE. HAIL WOTANI!

HAIL THORI! GREAT THUNDERER, PROTECTOR OF MIDGARD AND FRINED OF MAN. I INVOKE YOU TO JOIN AS WITNESS OF OUR RESPECT FOR TYR, AND OUR LOVE FOR THE GODS & GODDESSES. HAIL THORI!

HAIL THE NORNS! MOTHERS OF FATE; WEAVERS OF THE TAPESTRY KNOWN AS WYRD! I CALL UPON YOU TO SHARE IN THIS BLOT OF REMEMBRANCE AND SACRIFICE. HAIL THE NORNS!

The Gothi pauses once more before continuing:

TYRI... TYRI... TYRI... HAIL TYR, BRINGER OF LAW AND JUSTICE! HAIL TYRI GOD OF WAR AND VICTORY! WE GATHER TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOUR QUIET PRESENCE SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW. YOUR NOBILITY AND SACRIFICE LEAD US TO GREATER EFFORTS. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR LIGHT ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, TYR, CAPTAIN OF THE HOSTS. MAY YOU FOREVER DWELL ALWAYS IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WI HAIL YOU AS DEFENDER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY AS WELL. GUIDE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! TYRI WE INVOKE YOU...

At this point the Gothi lowers the Sword and turns to face the Altar. He then takes up the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Again turning to face the circle he raises the Meadhorn on high, dips sword blade in the mead and continues with:

Note: Godhi/Gydhja should envision the power of Tyr entering the sword and traveling through the sword into the mead.

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. TYR! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. TYR! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND WISDOM INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize Tyr's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. Laying sword on altar, He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds clockwise around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF TYR. TYR HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL VALI!)

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowl and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Then he returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

SACRIFICE

Jens Wartooth

And it came to pass that the Gods and Goddesses of Asgard and Vanaheim came to fear the get of Loki, Laufey's son, that great wolf known far and wide as Fenris the Devourer. A council was called by High Lord Wotan, and all put thought to the dilemma facing them. It was decided that the wolf must be bound in order for the worlds to be safe. The High Ones made a game of it, "Ho Fenris! You are so very strong. Can you break this bond?" And he did, as he did the second, stronger bond. This caused the Gods & Goddesses some despair. That was until they created and fashioned a magical bond, one which would surely fetter the doom of the world. This time Fenris was suspicious, and balked at the game. No amount of encouragement would budge the beast. Finally, Tyr stepped forward, "Will it assure you if I put my hand, my sword hand into your mouth whilst the bond is put on?" Fenris could not resist this offer as he had great respect and love for Tyr, who had fed him from his pupping. The bond was placed, and after three attempts to break free, the wolf realized he'd been tricked, and he took valiant Tyr's sword hand from him, crunching and devouring it as only Fenris would. Now, with the Devourer bound till Ragnarok, the Nine Worlds were safe once more, though some thought Tyr was an oathbreaker for his deed of sacrifice. In this, we see that sacrifice for the good of the Folk is neither given nor taken lightly.

HAIL TYR! HAIL TYR! HAIL TYR!"

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

Another assistant steps forward and shares:

Today we also give honor and remembrance to those who have inspired the Great Reawakening of our Folk, whether they be in the next existence or here on Midgard. These are the Founders of our modern faith.

Guido von List

Heinrich

Reinhardt

Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson

Thorolf

Else

Asbjorn

Heimgest

Valgard

Steven

Edredd

We toast and pay respect to these and many others who pioneered the Reawakening! Hail the Founders! Hail Tyr!

MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! GREAT TYR! SHARE WITH US YOUR WISDOM AND STRENGTH THIS YEAR. HAIL TYR!

The Gothi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, TYR HAIL!

After completing the circle the Gothi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowl, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

THE OATHS.

After the Gothi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:

NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MAKING OF OATHS AND SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS, GODDESSES AND KINSFOLK A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

The Gothi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. The Gothi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oaths

enters inner circle. The godhi then puts oathing over hilt of sword, and places a hand over the oath swearer's hand, upon the hilt and in contact with the oathing. The oath is sworn. Upon conclusion of the oath, Gothi will affirm oath and mark oather with rune staff as follows:

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BEFORE KINDRED AND KINSFOLK?

DO YOU SWEAR THIS OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL?

Upon receiving affirmation, Gothi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

WITH THIS RUNESTAFF BEING A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL WOTAN!

CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HALL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL TYR!

The Gothi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL THE NORNS! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIVINE PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE PAID HONOR AND RESPECT TO THOSE WHO ARE OF YOUR WEAVE. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HOLDS GREAT LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR YOU! FAR HAE, NORNIR!

HAIL THOR! YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMING TODAY. RETURN NOW TO BISLKIRNIR AND THRUDHEIM, WITH TIDINGS FOR OUR COMRADES THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) PAID RESPECT AND HONOR TO TYR THIS DAY. FAR HAE, THOR!

HAIL WOTAN! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE MADE SACRIFICE TO THY COMRADE, TYR. RETURN NOW TO THY HALLS, VALHALLA AND VALASKJALF, BEARING TIDINGS THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEARS GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR KIN IN ASGARD! FAR HAE, WOTAN!

HAIL TYR THE SWORD OF ASGARD! WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS, BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING VALOR AND THE EXAMPLE YOU SET FOR YOUR KIN ON MIDGARD! RETURN NOW TO ASGARD, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU!

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels counter-clockwise to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagald position and says:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY. NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN CELEBRATION OF FOUNDER'S DAY! FAR HAE!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO TYR. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS DAY. FAR HAEL!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF HE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TODAY. NOW GET THEE TO THY SUN DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF TYR AS THIS KINDRED WILL! FAR HAEL!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO VALI. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO TYR WITH US, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE! FAR HAEL!

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW



FESTIVAL OF THE RUNES

By James Leisinger, KHG-ToW

It is felt that the Runes, as an integral part of our cultural lore and a major vehicle of empowerment, are deserving of ritualistic recognition beyond that which naturally occurs within the yearly festivals.

Just as our liturgical cycles bring greater understanding and connection to the Northern Way, giving life and meaning to a forgotten past, the "Festival of the Runes" will ultimately lead the aspiring Erulian through levels of initiation towards self-awareness and whole-souled consciousness.

"The Runes themselves are complex in their composition and multifaceted in their interpretation. There can be no 'one' definition of a Rune, for it is of itself, without definitive boundaries." Their essence pre-existed the manifestation of the Nine-Worlds and will survive the "Doom of the Gods" to be utilized once again as the shaping force of the cosmos.

The power of the mind is both mystical and awesome in its totality. Through contemplation of Odin's ordeal upon Yggdrasil in order to obtain the wisdom and authority of the Runes, we also will receive 'a "NEW" insight by realization of the truths contained within them. Sacrifice takes many shapes and forms, but only through sacrifice will any type of attainment be achieved.

Presented here for your study is a first level, nine degree initiatory process towards Runic enlightenment, psychic development, and personal transformation/transmutation. The "Nine degrees" are designated and allotted, one to each of the "Nine Days" Odin hung upon the World-Tree. One degree per "day", each ascending step representative of its associate stage of awareness occurring in/on the subjective reality during Odin's (the initiates) sacrifice of self to Self.

As the body is pushed to the limits of its endurance the mind overrides the physical and objective reality recedes into subjective reality leaving all that exists held within ones being.

The "Ring of Initiation" is a representation and simulation of Odin's' spiritual expansion through physical endurance. It is intended for the initiate to realize through meditation upon Odin's ordeal, a path by whence he may attain vision into the depths of one's soul.

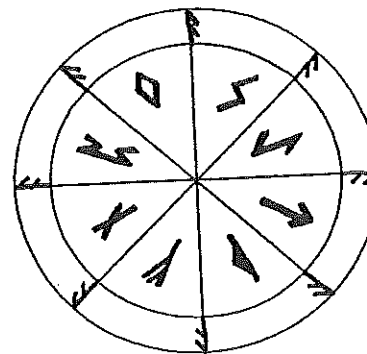
Utilizing the cosmic eight-fold map of the universe, a progressive pathway has been created that will lead the initiate by a process of consciousness transformation/realization to a sphere of "pure" insight and comprehension where objective and subjective reality unite.

The "Ring of Initiation" is that pathway, and is represented here in the figure below. It is no coincidence that the "Ring of Initiation" likens the Runic "Magic Circle", nor of the embodiment of the entire Rune-Row within the representative Rune of the "Ninth Initiation" (which encompasses and contains the previous eight degrees).

To each "day" of Odin's quest for enlightenment is ascribed a Runic expression that equals the inspired psychic development in that certain stage of initiation thus:

RING OF INITIATION

- 1st - Initiates Journey/Power to Will (SOWILO)
- 2nd - Human Condition Revealed (EIHWAZ)
- 3rd - Id/Ego/Super Ego (TIWAZ) .
- 4th - Chaos/Protection upon Paths/Mind Stretch (THURISAZ)
- 5th - Expansion of Perception/Transcendence of Limitations (FEHU)
- 6th - Elemental Transmutation (NAUTHIZ)
- 7th - Realization of Orlog/Individual Purpose (PERTHO)
- 8th - Perception of Godhood/Active Participation (INGWAZ)
- 9th - Acceptance of Godhood/Runic Union/Physical & Spiritual Unity/Hamingja Consciousness (ANSUZ)



1st; **INITIATES JOURNEY**- The traditional Runes of initiation have their place elsewhere; but the beginning of our journey on the Odinic Path is the specific desire of the Higher Will, and as such, requires spiritual empowerment within the new ⚡ initiate. Sowilo provides this empowerment, and also represents the Higher Will. Therefore, Sowilo is the Rune we use to represent Odin's first day upon the Tree. (Remember that Sowilo is an aspect of the goal, and also the active willed path towards that goal.)

2nd; **DISCOVERY OF THE HUMAN CONDITION**- During the first day, an acquaintance with the Hamingja is made, and the stage is set for its discovery to be made during this second day. The human condition involves the unenlightened state of the ego-self, immersed in all its wyrd, and subject to all its emotional reaction patterns.

Understanding the human condition is the key, which unlocks the 1st mystery, and is held by Skadi whose ⚡ Rune is Eihwaz. Therefore we use this Rune to represent Odin's second day upon the Tree.

3rd; **BATTLE WITH EGO SELF**- Our battle with the ego-self is intended to end in a victory over the id. This battle involves justice on all levels, and requires self-discipline, bravery, and great courage. This process constitutes a sacrifice of the self to the Self; or the ego-self to the Hamingja.

The purification of ego involves a special energy which is violet in color and is produced by Tiwaz. Without this energy there can be no purification of the ego, and thus, no victory. For this

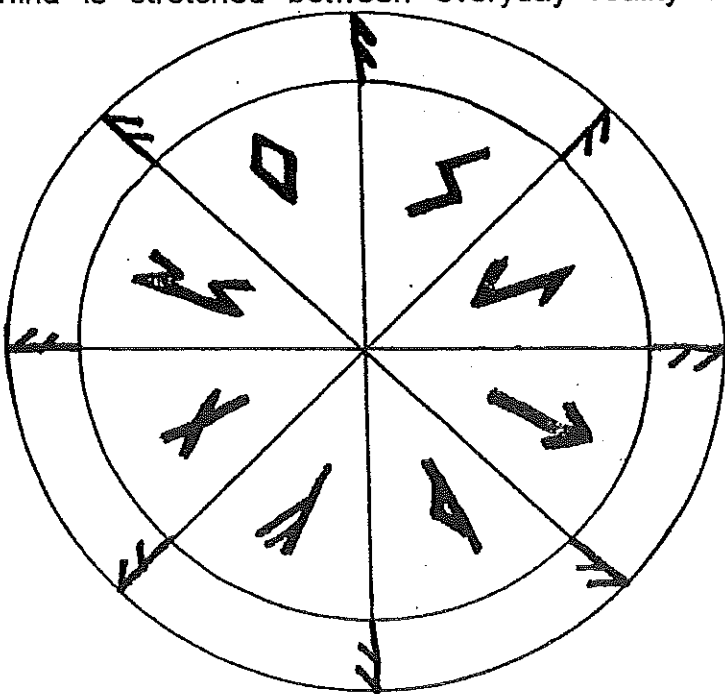
↑ reason we use Tiwaz to represent Odin's third day upon the Tree.

4th; **CHAOS/INITIATES PROTECTION/MIND STRETCH**- Chaos marks this fourth day. As the mind is stretched between everyday reality and mind boggling events that appear as

"miracles"; from being tormented by the betrayal of Odin, to the inexplicable guidance of that same force. The initiate finds himself within the iron grip of a "Wonderland", wondering where Alice went off to as the mind is systematically conditioned in preparation for union with the Hamingja.

All this chaos is accompanied by the mightiest force in existence manifesting as a defensive force which protects the initiate against the ravages of chaos. Both of these conditions are represented by Thurisaz, which is why we use this Rune to symbolize Odin's fourth day upon the Tree.

5th; **EXPANSION OF PERCEPTION**- As we move into the next phase of transcendental development, chaos is replaced by a gradual expansion of



perception. As the mind becomes stretched and conditioned to new and disquieting perspectives, the individual begins 'to settle down; and during the fifth day he learns to allow others their own unique perspective regardless of their limitation or vastness in scope. The initiate now understands that the highest perspective includes all perspectives, even while discerning each one's truth or falsity; validity or invalidity. Fehu provides for the power of expansion of all endeavors, and the expansion of our perception in particular. For this reason, Fehu is used to represent Odin's fifth day upon the Tree.

2 - **INVOCATION TO ODIN:** We invoke Odin as Galdrfadhir, RuneMaster, to inspire and guide us in our awakening perception of the awesome power contained within the Runes. Again follow your intuition to structure the invocation to Galdrfadhir: *For the truth of your soul is the meaning of your word.* A fitting invocation might be fashioned similar to this:

All-Father! God of Wisdom and War! God of Gallows and Galdr, we call to you across ancient lands and distant time, to the Great Tree that spans all worlds, all time, all life. Upon Yggdrasil you hung and knew the Holy Streams of power which flow through all creation. Terrible and beautiful they are. Let the knowledge within our blood be clearly known and our thoughts, words, and deeds glorify our ancestors, inspire our Kinsfolk, and please Mother Jorth! Hear us Great Galdrfadhir! Accompany us upon our journey.

3 - **RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL:** Within this first level of initiation towards Runic enlightenment the ritual of raising a Shield-Wall as performed during a major Blot will suffice our needs as it adequately shields the initiates consciousness during these first level meditations. It is the erector's intent and projection of will which gives power to the Shield-Wall of the Hammer-Rite which is the strongest "Rite of Protection", and provides for the gathered, the greatest protection and isolation.

4 - **CLEANSING MIND/SPIRIT:** The cleansing of the Mind/Spirit is an individual exercise undertaken to still one's mind and relax ones spirit in order to better achieve meditative focus. Settle the breathing pattern to be maintained throughout the meditation, also assume a posture that is comfortable and will be maintained throughout the meditation.
(Posture in this level of initiation is optional whereas posture in subsequent levels will be regimented.)

5 - **RUNE READING/ INITIATORY STATE:** Each "day" the initiate will raise his level of consciousness directly proportionate to the psychic development and physical transcendence/transmutation that Odin underwent in his preparation to receive the soul shattering awareness contained within the Runes. The reading of the "day's" Rune and short interpretation of the initiatory state should flow smoothly from the "Cleansing of Mind/Spirit" as if the two elements are one (indeed they are closely intertwined) in order to progress naturally from emptying ones mind and soul of dark thought and adverse influence to immediately focusing and filling it with pure purpose.

6 - **GALDR:** Galdr is basically the runic art of incantation. It is the vibratory apotheosis of a specific Rune. This vehicle of sound, coupled with that of form is the channel by which runic force finds expression. Again, Galdr is an intuitive facet of Rune-Craft and should be experimented with as there is much flexibility within it. The "singing" of the Elder Germanic sound formula seems to work very well in a multiply expressive situation. The finding of cohesion among multiple voices (consciousness) opens the pathway from other realms to ours in a most effective manner. "Sing" the day's Rune nine times and flow smoothly into contemplation of the RuneForm as it pertains to the corresponding initiatory state.

7 - **MEDITATION:** As previously stated the "Ring of Initiation" is intended for the individual, through a process of meditation, to unlock his inherent ability to transcend/ transmute self with ascending levels of realization leading to an ultimate perception of personal divinity and acceptance thereof. The meditation should last as long as time restraints allow, but no longer than 15 minutes. As the initiatory state for that "day" is being reviewed, grasp its' (the Runes) "root idea" and allow it to flux from the RuneForm erected in your hugauga (minds eye) into your soul during Galdr. Results will of course vary dependant upon the individual's ability, their

6th; **TRANSCENDENCE OF BASE INSTINCTS**- In order to transcend our base instincts, we must develop the ability to function on a level above the petty emotional reactions that are the result of jealousy, greed, and undue attachment. Such transcendence requires the overcoming of great resistance, which is provided by the Rune **Nauthiz**. Therefore, this is the Rune we choose to represent Odin's sixth day upon the Tree.

7th; **REALIZATION OF ORLOG**- Once we have learned to function at a level above our former reactionary patterns, the seventh day will be a time of coming into realization of our Orlog. Here we come to realize beyond a mere intellectual understanding, the forces behind all circumstances in life. The specific conditions of our own process of initiation also become clear, as well as many of the details regarding our ultimate purpose after completion of the initiatory process.

The information comprising this realization of Orlog is contained in "Mimir's The Well", through which we may gain access to the doors, vaults, and halls of our fate. Therefore, we use the

only adequate Rune there is to represent Odin's seventh day upon the Tree, **Pertho**.

8th; **PERCEPTION OF GODHOOD**- We gain our perception of Godhood as a result of our active participation in not only the transcendence of negative Orlog, but also in the shaping of that which is required for our final goal of Hamingja consciousness. **Ingwaz** provides a porthole to the stored energy required for our active participation in our own Orlog on all levels. This is the gestation period of our Godhood. Therefore it is fitting that we use this Rune to represent Odin's eighth day upon the Great Tree Yggdrasil.

9th; **ACCEPTANCE OF GODHOOD**- The ninth and final degree of initiation marks the Vitki's appearance at the last day, where integration with the Runes first manifests in its fullness. Through this union we come to an acceptance of our Godhood, undergoing at the same time a gradual unity of consciousness with the Hamingja. Here, our personal wholeness, perfection and completeness become manifest as we come to embody the Odinic wisdom.

It is due to this Odinic wisdom that we choose **Ansuz** to represent this initiation. At the completion of our own ordeal upon the Great Tree, we emerge after sacrificing self to Self, as an "Odhinn". Ansuz then, represents the Odhinn's ninth and final day upon the Great Tree Yggdrasil before alighting once again on MidGarth never to be the same.

The Festival of the Runes is structured as below and comprises the elements of:

- 1) Cleansing The Stead
- 2) Invocation To Odin
- 3) Raising The Shield-Wall
- 4) Cleansing Mind/Spirit
- 5) Rune Reading/Initiatory State
- 6) Galdr
- 7) Meditation
- 8) Closing/Grounding
- 9) Tribute

1 - **CLEANSING THE STEAD**: The cleansing of the stead is requisite to the raising of the Shield-Wall. It banishes not only detrimental and disadvantageous forces from the ritual area, but it also creates a positive atmosphere for the presence of All-Father Odin to appear once invoked. This cleansing may be simply (but powerfully) done by utilizing the cleansing essence of fire and the purifying aspects of smoke along with the realization of intent through the spoken word. Allow your intuition to be your guide in this vocal utterance of will.

powers of concentration and visualization, and their foundation in runic lore and Norse Mythology.

8 - **CLOSING/GROUNDING**: In other rituals the Shield-Wall, or Sphere of Protection within which the Gothi/Vitki has worked is broken and dispelled. In this rite, where all possible steps are taken to maximize inner strength and potential, the glowing might of the runic force that has been built is integrated into ones Personal Sphere of Protection in the following manner: Stand in the cross position, palms up, facing northward; as *one* see this sphere of righteous protection and strength that all present have attributed to about you. Inhaling deeply draw in your arms so that the tips of the fingers of each hand unite with your solar plexus. With the drawing in of your arms visualize gathering up the Shield-Wall's potency and internalizing it, feel it flow into your lungs and course throughout your body revitalizing and animating every atom of every cell. Turn East, South, and West, repeating this exercise until the sphere is dissipated through this visualization process. In this manner is not only the soul conscious of your kinsmen drawn you're your being but also the world consciousness (i.e., collective unconscious) which is embedded in pure runic force.

9 - **TRIBUTE**: The Gothi speaks:

**HAIL ODINI! IT IS YOU WHO HAS INFLAMED OUR HEARTS AND MINDS,
AWAKENED OUR SOUL! MAY STRENGTH AND HONOR BE WITH YOU AND
OUR FOLK ALWAYS!**

ALL: **HAIL ODINI!**
HAIL ODINI!
HAIL ODINI!

THIS RITE IS ENDED. SO MOOT IT BE!

A Word About Galdr Formulae: (Vibration)

Tradition holds that these words should be "vibrated" and not, merely enunciated. One must discover for oneself that method of humming, or of pronouncing these words or letter combinations which will produce the needed "vibration". Some find that a shrill, singsong voice produces the desired results, others have found that a moderately deep pitch, slightly higher than a normal speaking voice achieves the proper vibratory result. Either way, it is by experimentation and frequency of use that the Vitki will discover this key of renewal.

Each syllable should be evenly vibrated so that none is accented at the expense of the other. The test of vibration is strangely simple in that it should detonate in the palms of the hands and in the soles of the feet, and occasionally in the face. When vibrating a word forcibly (and forcibly does not necessarily mean loudly), a tingling sensation should be felt in every cell and nerve of the body, particularly the hands and feet should feel as though every atom of every cell has become empowered and in rapid states of vibration.

Little more can be said regarding the technique of the "Formula of Vibration" that cannot be personally experienced. It is such a simple matter in which to attain proficiency that no difficulty should be encountered. The word for the day here is: PRACTICE! The theory involved being that, by means of vibration the actual formation of the body-mind system may be changed and renewed. Consider the fact that within a seven year period the body has undergone a complete biological change, which during that time has renewed its entire cell structure. The metabolic process rids the body of old and deceased organisms and creates a new cell organization. This vibratory technique expedites the expulsion of dead tissue and unwanted or used up molecules and particles so that new ones being absorbed into the system may more

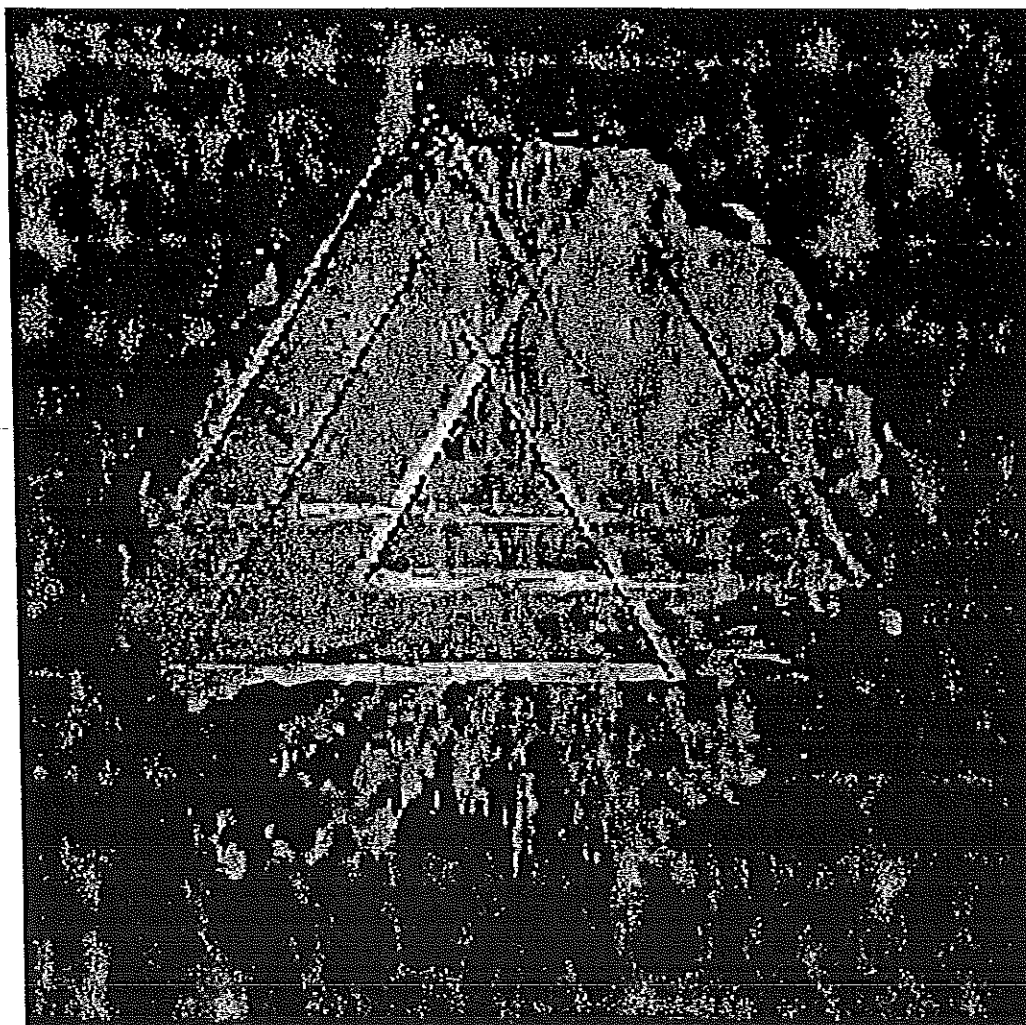
readily function within a purified body as devotion to expanding ones field of consciousness is undertaken in a less restrictive environment.

The Ancients have known for centuries that all matter is vibratory energy. There is a physical phenomenon described as "harmonic resonance" where, if one object begins to vibrate strongly enough, another object nearby which shares the same natural vibratory rate will start to vibrate or resonate with the first. The Vitki vibrates a Rune-Name/God-Name in order to effect a harmonic resonance

between the deity as it exists within his own psyche and as it exists within the multiverse. The aim is to have the psyche "resonate" with the divine. Not only does this lift the consciousness to a higher, more purified level, it accelerates the purification of the body through the expulsion of old dead cells.

There is a deeper goal of the Vibratory Formula where its object, once the "root ideas" of RuneForm and its corresponding psychological principles are brought into the foreground, is to ally or connect them with the collective unconsciousness and will be addressed within the next level of initiation into these Runic Mysteries.

By James Leisinger, Konigshofgodhi-ToW



Festival of the Runes - Odin Blot

GATHERING OF THE FOLK

Sound the moot-horn. After the folk have gathered, stand quietly for 2-3 minutes stilling and cleansing the mind of unwanted thought patterns contrary to the Blots purpose.

THE SACRED FLAME

"IN THE NAMES OF OUR HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES I KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, FROM THE FIRST MYSTERY TO THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE QUICKENED BY FLAME THAT WE MIGHT BEST STEP INTO ITS BURNING CIRCLE OF LIGHT, FIRE OF MIGHT, ROUND US GLOW SHIELD-RING BRIGHT."

CONSECRATION OF HARROW/ OPENING OF THE CIRCLE

"IN THE NAME OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR I CONSECRATE AND HALLOW THIS HARROW AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE. BANISHING FROM IT ALL IMPURE AND UNHOLY INFLUENCES! MAY OUR MINDS AS IS OUR WILL BE ALSO CONSECRATED TO THE JUST SERVICE OF ODIN/GALDRFADHR. EVER-WATCHFUL, EVER-WAKEFUL, HEIMDALLR GUARDS AGAINST INVASION AND TRESPASS; LET THIS HOLY STEAD BE ALSO WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES CONTRARY TO OUR PURPOSE HERE TODAY.

HALLOWING OF THE FRITH-GARTH (SHIELD-WALL)

1ST READING

Havamal §138-142

INVOCATION

"ALL-FATHER! WE HEAR YOU IN THE GENTLE RUSTLING OF THE LEAVES, AND IN THE WILD FURY OF THE HUNTSMAN DURING DESTRUCTIVE MID-SUMMER STORMS. YOU SPEAK TO US IN THE CRY OF THE RAVEN AND THE HOWL OF WOLF ON COLD WINTER NIGHTS. WE PERCEIVE YOU IN THE BLOOD-CRY OF WARRIORS AND IN THE SONGS OF SKALDS. YOU ARE ALIVE WITHIN OUR SOULS ONCE AGAIN AND WE CALL TO YOU AS YOUR IMMORTALITY, THE INHERITORS OF YOURSELF!"

"SIGFADHRI!" "VALFADHR!!" "ODIN!!!"

SACRIFICE

"GALDRFADHRI! JOIN US AS WE PAY TRIBUTE TO YOUR MIGHT AND WISDOM TODAY. ACCEPT THIS OFFERING, THE SACRIFICE OF OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR COMMITMENT. OUR TRIBUTE IS FROM KINSMEN TO BELOVED ANCESTOR. TAKE IT AS WE OFFER IT, AND WE SHALL ACCEPT YOUR BLESSINGS!"

BLESSING

(Bestow Blessing of Odin upon the gathered.)

2ND READING

Meditation with ANSUZ.

PETITION OF MEMORY HORN

"FROM HEIDRUNS BREAST AND LERATHS BOUGH, MAY WE OBTAIN THE FOOD OF ODIN WHICH IS WISDOM; OF FIOLNIR WHICH IS BEING; AND THE BLOOD OF KVASIR WHICH IS KNOWLEDGE. MAY WE HAVE THE POWER OF HAMINGJA, AND THE HONOR OF TYR. MAY WE BE BLESSED WITH FINE SONS AND FERTILE DAUGHTERS TO CARRY OUR LINE."

"HAIL ODINI!"

OATHING/TROTH

"ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE COME TO CIRCLE, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE; IN KINSHIP AND IN TROTH. MY WISH IS TO CONTINUE THE GARNERING OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM THAT LIES WITHIN THE TEACHINGS OF THE ANCIENTS. TO REMAIN STILL IS TO MISS THE POINT. A "BECOMING" IS UPON US! LET US SOW THE SEED OF BLOOD AND CULTURE AS IS OUR SACRED DUTY!"

FAREWELL TO THE GODS

"ALL-FATHER! TAKE YOUR LEAVE OR STAY IF YOU CHOOSE. YOU ARE WELCOME AMONG US ALWAYS!"

CLOSING

(For this Blot do not degrade the Shield-Wall, rather, have the gathered Folk collect it into their personal sphere of protection.)

THE BLOT IS OVER.



By James Leisinger, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

FreyFaxi

Since ancient times, August has been the date of the Harvest Festival in both Scandinavia and Iceland. The harvest has always been a sacred time in the Northlands; a time of celebration and for reaping the rewards of the years labor. Frey-Faxi is a day of rejoicing the earth's offerings of bountiful grains; the baking of bread; and the spirit of the ever-diligent folkish work ethic.

The first of the Harvest Festivals, Frey-Faxi, is sacred to the Harvest-God, Frey. Today we honor the Lord of the Crops with a grand sacrifice, for the harvest season is equally important to us today as it was to our ancestors in days of old. This is a time to reap the bounty one has sewn, be it crops, knowledge, devotion or victory in battle.

Frey-Faxi, or "Mare of Frey" is the name of a sacred stallion, which is mentioned in various sagas as being dedicated to Frey. The horse was an especially sacred animal among the Teutonic tribes from their first moment of their appearance in history. Frey-Faxi lends to the symbolic characteristics of the archetypal god Frey and the various representative qualities of the horse, known as Frey-Faxi. This Festival is traditionally celebrated with horse racing, martial sports, and of course, much feasting. A time for the family and an all around good time. A powerful time to Frey-Faxi!



Frey-Faxi Harvest Festival

The ceremony begins with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the altar. The gothi then enters the circle and all observe a moment or two of silence to still the mind and to help prepare those present for the rite at hand.

Hammer Hallowing

At this point the gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds to erect a sacred shield-wall. Facing the altar, the gothi first hammer-signs himself, then collects the hallowing hammer and rune staff. Facing north, with hammer in one hand and staff in the other, he assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, and says:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT OUR KINDRED DURING THIS RITE, AND TO HALLOW THESE SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODINI!

He now lowers the hammer and staff and proceeds in a deosil (clockwise) fashion to the eastern quarter. Once again assuming the elhaz position, he says:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I ASK THY POWERS TO PROTECT OUR GROUP WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, AND TO HALLOW THIS SITE. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDUR!

Continuing deosil, he continues on to the southern quarter, again assuming the elhaz form, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

Now he travels to the western quarter (deosil), and repeats the same procedure as above, saying:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! I ASK THY FORCES TO PROTECT OUR SURROUNDS AND HALLOW OUR FOLK WITH A SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THORI

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar. He then hammer-signs himself before Opening the Circle.

Opening the Circle

Here the gothi turns to face the circle and pauses briefly. He then assumes the elhaz stadhagaldr form, and says:

FEHU...JERA...EHWAZ...LAGUZ...INGWAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...

MIGHTY RUNES OF THE HARVEST-GOD, FREY...

LIFE-RUNE; MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION:

I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS, AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL FREY!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself, then prepares to consecrate the altar.

Consecration

Picking up the rune staff, the gothi makes the sign of the hammer over the altar with the staff, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TOT HE JUST SERVICE OF THE ASIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCE FOR OUR FREY-FAXI FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE ASIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL FREY!!!

The gothi now returns the staff to the altar, and hammer-signs himself before lighting the Sacred Flames.

Sacred Flames

The gothi now lights the torches on the side of the altar, or, if indoors, the candles on the altar. He then collects his rune staff and turns to face the circle. While leaning on the staff, the gothi recited the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or, if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY, AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME, SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN ITS' SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL ODIN! HAIL FREY!

He now returns the staff to the altar, and hammer-signs himself. The gothi then steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward and recite the First Reading.

First Reading

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S FREY-FAXI HARVEST FESTIVAL. FREY-FAXI IS THE FIRST OF THE HARVEST FESTIVALS; TRADITIONALLY CELEBRATED WITH HORSE RACING, MARTIAL SPORTS, AND MUCH FEASTING. TODAY WE HONOR THE HARVEST-GOD, FREY, WITH A GRAND SACRIFICE, FOR THE HARVEST SEASON IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO US TODAY AS IT WAS TO OUR ANCESTORS IN DAYS OF OLD. WE HAIL THE LORD OF THE CROPS AS WE PREPARE TO REAP THE BOUNTY OF OUR EARLIER LABORS. HAIL FREY! HAIL FREY! HAIL FREY!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle in order for the gothi to begin the Invocation.

Invocation

At this point the gothi steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up the ceremonial stag-horn (or rune-staff) and turns to face the circle. He pauses briefly, then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form, with stag-horn high overhead, saying:

THE HARVEST SEASON APPROACHES, WITH THIS APPROACH WE FEEL THE TURNING OF NATURE'S WHEEL. THE WHEEL TURNS, AND WITH IT WE TURN TOWARDS OUR KINFOLK AND REJOICE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE ONE WITH NATURE. WE HAVE AWAKENED THE GOD-FORCE WITHIN US AND WE SALUTE THE MIGHTY SPIRIT OF THE HARVEST GODS AND GODDESSES.

Here the gothi pauses momentarily, then continues in a loud voice with:

HAIL ODIN! GOD OF THE WOLF AND THE RAVEN! GOD OF THE SPEAR AND THE STAFF! ODIN! GOD OF GODS! WE RESPECTFULLY SALUTE YOU AS WE SACRIFICE TOWARDS A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.

HAIL THOR! MIGHTY CHAMPION OF MEN AND GODS ALIKE! GOD OF THE LABORER AND GRANTER OF FERTILITY! THOR! GOD OF THE HAMMER! WE SALUTE YOU AS WE STRIVE TO AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT WITHIN US.

HAIL SIF! LOVELY GODDESS OF THE GOLDEN GRAIN! WIFE OF THOR AND MOTHER OF COURAGE AND STRENGTH! SIF! GODDESS OF THE HARVEST! WE SALUTE YOU.

HAIL FREYJA! LUSTY LADY OF THE VANIR! GODDESS OF FERTILITY AND GIVER OF GROWTH! FREYJA! GODDESS OF THE NECKLACE! WE OFFER OUR SALUTE AS WE PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING HARVEST.

WE SALUTE ALL THE MIGHTY AESIR AND VANIR! HAIL THE HOLY GODS! HAIL THE WHEEL OF CREATION! HAIL LIFE! THE WHEEL TURNS, LET US BE STRENGTHENED DURING THIS SEASON OF HARVEST.

Again the gothi pauses briefly, then continues in a loud voice with:

HAIL FREY! LUSTY LORD OF THE VANIR! GOD OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY! GOD OF SENSUAL DELIGHTS, THE SUPREME LIFE FORCE IN ALL ITS GLORY! FREY! WE OF THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN HOPES OF OBTAINING A RICH AND PLENTIFUL HARVEST THIS SEASON. FREY! YOU WHOSE SACRED POWER IS WITNESSED IN THE MIGHT OF THE WILD STALLION AND IN THE FURY OF THE RUTTING BOAR. YOU WHOSE LUSTY SPIRIT HELPS TO SECURE THE EXISTENCE OF OUR PEOPLE, OUR FOLK. O YOU WHO SEES TO IT THAT OUR TRIBE WILL INCREASE AND PROSPER, TO REAP THE BOUNTY WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY OURS. FREY! FRIEND OF THE FOLK! THIS HARVEST SEASON WE HAVE NEED OF YOUR PRESENCE. FREY! HEAR US! HEAD OUR SUMMONS AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED. COME TO US NOW...

YNGVIL

**HARVEST-GOD!
SON OF NJORD!
GOD OF THE CROPS!
FREYJA'S TWIN!
LORD OF THE WAR-HOST!
GOD OF THE SWEDES!
GOD OF MEN!
GOD OF THE WORLDS!**

GREAT FREY! IN LORDLY MANNER AND WITH SACRED RESPECT WE CALL OUT TO YOU AS OUR GOD. FREY! MOVE US WITH YOUR MIGHT! FREY! FREE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! FREY! WE INVOKE YOU....

The gothi lowers the stag-horn and turns to face the altar. Replacing the stag-horn, he picks up the pre-filled mead horn and again turns to face the circle. Lifting the horn on high, he continues with:

....AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS; OUR DETERMINATION; OUR STRUGGLES. FREY! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. FREY! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR PROSPERITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY EVER PROSPER ON OUR UPWARDS PATH, AS WE SHARE IT AMONGST US.

The gothi the horn and again turns to face the altar. He pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. He now hammer-signs the bowl. Taking the bowl and the evergreen sprig in hand, he proceeds in a deosil fashion to bless those around the circle, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE THEE THE WEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF FREY. FREY HEILI (ANSWERED BY 'HAIL FREY!')

After completing the circle, the gothi hands the sprig and bowl to his assistant, so that he may be blessed as well. Once done, the gothi returns the sprig and the bowl to the altar. He then hammer-signs himself and steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward and recite the Second Reading.

Second Reading

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

Dawn of an Age

by Ron McVan

Call the heroes!

Call to the shades of our fathers: Live Again!
We feast now to those noble warriors!
Loudly call the shades of our fathers: Live again!
We raise a horn to these gods of men
Loudly call the shades of our heroic fathers!
Open wide the doors of Valhalla: Live again
A new golden age for Aryan man.
Break the shackles of this decaying world.
Sound the trumpets loud: Live again!
As it was in ancient times
We raise a roaring toast to our heroes divine
Through their spirit we live again.
With the thunder of Thor's mighty hammer
Down from Asgard the Valkyries ride,
Wolf and raven at our side,
In Wotan's name and Aryan pride:
We live again!
Hail Frey! Hail Frey!! Hail Frey!!!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may begin the Memory Horn.

Memory Horn

The gothi now steps to the front of the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up the pre-filled mead horn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high, he says:

HEARKEN, ALL YEE HALLOWED BEINGS BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALLS CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE WHO LISTEN.

He pauses briefly, then continues with:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! A HORN IN HONOR OF THE HARVEST-GOD. MAY WE STRIVE TO AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT WITHIN US ALWAYS. SHARE WITH US YOUR PROSPERITY AND WEALTH THIS HARVEST SEASON. FREY HEIL!

Taking a healthy pull from the horn, the gothi then proceeds around the circle in a deosil fashion, offering all an opportunity to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE SACRED DRINK OF THE GODS. FREY HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST TO FREY - OR JUST A 'HAIL FREY!')

Once he has completed the circle, the gothi returns to the altar. He then pours the remaining

mead in the horn on the ground in front of the altar, or, if indoors, into the bowl. He then hammer-signs himself before closing the blot.

Closing

Picking up the rune staff, the gothi turns to face the circle. While leaning on the staff, he pauses briefly, and says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY, BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES; OUR FOLK; OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS, WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL FREY!!!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself. With the hallowing hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, he, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds to remove the shield-wall. Traveling widdershins (counter clockwise), he begins at the western quarter. Assuming the Elhaz stadhagaldr form, with hammer and staff high overhead, he says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING OUR SURROUNDINGS AND HALLOWING OUR FOLK WITH YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL. HAIL THOR!

Now the gothi continues widdershins to the southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure, he says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS. HAIL FREY!

Then to the eastern quarter:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING OUR GROUP WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; AND FOR HALLOWING THIS SITE. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, back to the north:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING OUR KINDRED AND HALLOWING OUR SURROUNDINGS DURING THIS RITE. HAIL ODIN!

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar. He then turns to face the circle, and all join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

This Blot is ended.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

WinterFinding

Winter Finding is another Festival which emphasizes the Wheel of Nature. This is one of the four major blotar, marking the Autumn equinox. The Wheel has completed three quarters of it's journey since Yule. Summer and Winter seem to balance for the moment, yet the onset of Winter is close at hand.

The greatest of the Harvest Festivals, Winter Finding, is dedicated to the AllFather, Odin. Today we call upon the High One for inspiration and strength to pull us through seasonal lean times ahead, whenever they may strike. We offer a grand sacrifice in Odin's honor today, in preparation for the upcoming Winter. We look into our hearts, assess our past achievements, and look towards the future, knowing we will endure any hardships the future might have in store.

With the onset of Winter upon us, the days become shorter and the nights longer. It is a time for gathering up the summer harvest and for preparation towards the long Winter months ahead. This day is celebrated with much joy, kinship, and of course, feasting. An old ritual after each harvest gathering was to leave a few ears of corn standing in the field. This was done to show that the farmer had not exhausted the strength of the crop. Also, it was considered to be an offering for Odin's horses.

Winter Finding: a time of balance, a time of celebration, a time to Hail Odin!



Winter Finding Odin Blot

The ceremony begins with the gathered folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the altar. Once completed, the gothi (and the shield-wall gothi, if one is available) enters the circle and all observe a couple moments of silence in order to still the mind and to prepare for the rite at hand.

Hammer Hallowing

At this point the gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds to erect a sacred shield-wall, and to hallow the ritual site. Facing the altar, the gothi hammer-signs himself, then picks up the ceremonial hammer and rune staff. Turning to face north, he assumes the elhaz stadhagaldur form, holding the hammer in one hand and the staff in the other, high overhead. Then he says:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING US FROM THE FORCES OF CHAOS, AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODIN!

Lowering the hammer and staff, the gothi proceeds in a deosil (clockwise) fashion to the eastern quarter. Again assuming the elhaz position, he says:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO KEEP ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE AT BAY WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL; AND TO HALLOW OUR SURROUNDINGS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDURI

Continuing on to the southern quarter, the gothi repeats the same basic procedure as above, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY DIVINE POWERS TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL; TO PROTECT THIS HOF AND TO HALLOW THESE GROUNDS. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

Finally, to the west, again repeating the above procedure and saying:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO PROTECT OUR FOLK AND HALLOW THIS AREA WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HELGA VE-THETTA, OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THORI

Now he returns the hammer and staff to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then prepares to open the Circle.

Opening the Circle

Turning to face the circle, the gothi pauses momentarily, then assumes the elhaz stadhagaldur form, and says:

**ANSUZ...GEBU...WUNJO...EIHWAZ...OTHALAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...
MIGHTY RUNES OF THE ALLFATHER, ODIN...
LIFE-RUNE; MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION:
I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND CLEANSE THIS GATHERING
OF WARRIORS, AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS
AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL ODIN!**

The gothi now hammer-signs himself, then prepares to consecrate the altar.

Consecration

Picking up the rune staff, the gothi faces the altar. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the altar with the staff, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TOT HE JUST SERVICE OF THE ASIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUEANCE FOR OUR WINTER FINDING HARVEST FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE ASIR! HAIL THE VANIR!! HAIL ODIN!!!

The gothi now returns the staff to the altar, and hammer-signs himself before lighting the Sacred Flames.

Sacred Flames

The gothi now lights the torches on the side of the altar, or, if indoors, the candles on the altar. He then collects his rune staff and turns to face the circle. His assistant now lights the fire in the pit, or, if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle. The gothi, while leaning on his staff, then says,

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA, WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY, AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME, SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN ITS' SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL ODIN!

He now returns the staff to the altar, then hammer-signs himself. He then steps to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward to read the First Reading.

First Reading

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and recite the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) WINTER FINDING FESTIVAL. WINTER FINDING MARKS THE AUTUMN EQUINOX, THE WHEEL OF NATURE HAS COMPLETED THREE QUARTERS OF A REVOLUTION SINCE THE YULE TIDE. SUMMER AND WINTER LIE IN A DELICATE BALANCE FOR THE MOMENT, YET THE ONSET OF WINTER IS CLOSE AT HAND. WINTER FINDING IS THE GREATEST OF THE HARVEST FESTIVALS. TODAY WE OFFER A GRAND SACRIFICE IN HONOR OF THE HIGH ONE, ODIN, IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING WINTER. WE CALL UPON THE ONE-EYED GOD FOR INSPIRATION AND STRENGTH TO SEE US THROUGH PERSONAL LEAN TIMES AHEAD. HAIL ODINI HAIL ODIN! HAIL ODINI

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may begin the Invocation.

Invocation

The gothi now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then collects his rune-staff and turns to face the circle. Assuming the Elhaz stadhagaldr form, with staff high overhead, he says:

NOW IS A TIME OF BALANCE. SUN AND MOON SHARE THE SKY, AND SOON MOTHER EARTH WILL COVER HERSELF WITH THE FALLEN LEAVES AS A BLANKET IN A TIME OF SLEEP, A TIME OF RENEWAL. TODAY, WE GATHER IN THE HARVEST, MAY IT SUSTAIN US THROUGH WINTERTIDE. THE WHEEL TURNS, YET WE WILL BE STRENGTHENED BY THE DARK MONTHS AHEAD. GODS OF SUMMER; GODS OF FALL; OF WINTER AND SPRING, WE STAND BEFORE YOU TALL AND PROUD AND JOYFUL AS YOUR KIN SHOULD BE. MIGHTY GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD, WE HAIL YOU.

Here the gothi pauses briefly, then continues, loudly, with:

HAIL FRIGGA! ALLMOTHER! MIGHTY QUEEN OF ASGARD! GREAT AND WISE, WE SING YOUR PRAISE HERE THIS DAY.

THOR! MIGHTY HAMMER GOD! FRIEND OF MAN AND GIVER OF FERTILITY! TODAY WE HAIL YOU.

HAIL SIF! HARVEST GODDESS! YOU WHOSE GOLDEN HAIR HAS VEILED THE FIELDS OF OUR LAND, MAY YOUR GIFTS BE EVER GIVEN.

HAIL FREY! LUSTY LORD OF GROWTH! GIVER OF PROSPERITY AND FERTILITY, WE PRAISE YOU THIS DAY.

FREYJA! YOU WHO ARE CALLED MARDOLL AND HORN AND GEFN; SYR AND GODDESS OF THE SLEIGH HEAR US! LADY OF THE VANIR, WHO WITH YOUR BROTHER GRANTS FERTILITY, WE HAIL YOU.

MIGHTY VANIR AND AESIR, WE HAIL YOU THIS DAY.

Again the gothi pauses momentarily, then continues, loudly, with:

HAIL ODIN! RAVEN GOD OF THE SPEAR! BEARER OF THE WAND, VALFATHER AND ALLFATHER, HAIL! IN WINTER FINDING WE ARE HERE TO HONOR YOU WITH SACRIFICE. ODIN! SKY-PAKED WANDERER! YOU WHOSE THRONE IN VALHALLA STANDS TALL OVER ALL WHO GUIDES AND TEACHES AND INSPIRES HEROES AND CHAMPIONS THROUGH THE AGES. O YOU, RIDER OF THE WIND AND BRINGER OF VICTORY! PROTECTOR OF OUR LAND; OUR FAMILIES; OUR FOLK. WE CALL TO THEE TO BE WITH US IN THIS SACRED CIRCLE. ODIN! WE CALL TO THEE ACROSS ALL TIME, AND ALL THE WORLDS OF THE GODS. ODIN! HEAR US! HEED OUR SUMMONS AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED. COME NOW.

**HIGH ONE!
FATHER OF ALL!
GREY-BEARDED ONE!
GOD OF HEROES!
TERRIBLE ONE!**

**STIRRER OF STRIFE!
GOD OF THE WOLF AND THE RAVEN!
GOD OF THE HARVEST!
GOD OF ASGARD**

**GREAT ODINI! GOD OF GODS! MIGHTY CHIEFTAIN OF ASGARD AND FATHER OF
HEROES! ODINI! ALLFATHER! YOUR STRENGTH AND WISDOM INSPIRES US THIS
WINTER FINDING. ODINI! WE INVOKE YOU....**

The gothi now lowers the staff and turns to face the altar. He then replaces the staff and picks up the pre-filled mead horn. Turning to face the circle, he raises the horn on high and continues with:

**....AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR OWN EFFORTS; OUR
DETERMINATION; OUR STRUGGLES. ODINI! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE
PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED
RESPECT. ODINI! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND
INSPIRATION INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO
YOU AND TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.**

He now lowers the horn and again turns to face the altar. The gothi then pours a small amount of mead from the horn into the bowl. He now hammer-signs the bowl. Taking the evergreen sprig and bowl in hand, he proceeds deosil around the circle to bless the folk. While making the sign of Gebo with the sprig dipped in mead across the chest of the person being blessed, he says:

**WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE THEE THE STRENGTH AND
INSPIRATION OF ODIN. ODIN HEIL! (ANSWERED BY 'HAIL ODINI!')**

Once he has completed the circle, the gothi then hands the sprig and bowl to his assistant, so that he may bless the gothi. Afterwards, the gothi returns the sprig and the bowl to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then moves to one side of the altar in order for his assistant to come forward and read the Second Reading.

Second Reading

The assistant now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and read the following:

Wotan Rising

by Ron McVan

**Give me iron words forged in fire,
That I may speak
Through the soul of my people.
Temper their body and heart,
And set loose the torrent storm of my will!
Powers of aeons generate within me,
Snapping the rusted chains of alien creeds.**

**Hear now the eight-legged stride
Of my steed across the heavens!
I am the image of my kind writ large.
My being spans the breadth of all thought and matter.**

*Through the light of my solar eye, from an age undreamed of,
You have known me.*

*Moon and stars I gather in my cloak for you to gaze upon;
My spear pierces the farthest corners of life's mystery.*

*Like a ship I guide you,
And though you may wander, do not abandon me!
I am the source of all that you are and ever can be.*

I have given you knowledge, spirit and an ounce of divinity.

*Defile not your image,
Lest your soul be cast to the nether worlds.
Above your cities and cooling rock of mountains
The keen eyes of my ravens
Bear watchful measure to your life and deeds.*

*From Asgard I gaze down upon you - Through many guises I walk among you;
You are the multitude of my single spirit - Which I in turn give back to you.*

Do not turn from the challenges that I have laid before you!

*Burst the illusion of all doubt and limitation!
Shatter the darkness of disillusion and despair!
Sound the clarion of a new and triumphant age!
The eye of Wotan works within you.*

*Let my strong ones rise!
Like the mighty sacred oaks,
Unleash the powers that I alone have given you!
Mirrored in Nature, mirrored in Time,
Mirrored in the mountains, ocean and sky,
Let the heroic life rhythm of the Aryan Gods
Stir your noble blood!*

*Clutch the flaming sword of your divinity!
Set up a light in the darkness!
The might of legend still flows in your veins.
Let my strong ones rise!*

Hail Odin! Hail Odin!! Hail Odin!!!

The assistant now hammer-signs himself, then returns to his position in the circle so that the gothi may begin the Memory Horn.

Memory Horn

The gothi now steps up to the altar and hammer-signs himself. He then picks up the pre-filled mead horn and begins the Sumbel aspect of the blot by saying:

HEAR ME, ALL YOU HALLOWED BEINGS BOTH HIGH AND LOW OF HEIMDALLS CHILDREN. HAIL TO THEE WHO LISTEN.

He pauses briefly, then continues with:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! I RAISE THIS HORN TO THE ANCIENT GOD OF WAR OF THE NORTHERN FOLK. HE WHO GOES BY MANY NAMES; HE WHO HAS JUST AS MANY ASPECTS; HE WHOSE MAIN OBJECTIVE IS THE FURTHERANCE OF HIS KIN - ODIN, FATHER OF ALL! HEIL!

After taking a healthy drink of the horn, the gothi proceeds in a deosil fashion around the circle, offering all an opportunity to drink from the horn and to toast Odin, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE DRINK OF THE GODS. ODIN HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST TO ODIN - OR JUST A 'HAIL ODINI')

Once the gothi has completed the circle, he refills the horn and starts the second round saying:

A TOAST TO THE HEROES! I RAISE THIS HORN IN HONOR OF THE VALIANT HEROES, RESIDING IN VALHALLA. TO THE COURAGE, BRAVERY, DILIGENCE AND LOYALTY THAT THEY INSPIRE. EINHERJAR HEIL!

He again takes a long pull from the horn, then takes it around the circle for the second round of toasts, saying:

A TOAST TO THE HEROES! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE DRINK OF THE HEROES! EINHERJAR HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST, OR 'HAIL EINHERJARI')

Once the second round is completed, the gothi refills the horn, then begins the third and last round by saying:

A TOAST TO VICTORY! MAY WE FACE ALL OUR BATTLES WITH OUR HEADS HELD HIGH AND MAY VICTORY BE OURS ALWAYS. SIG HEIL!

Again he takes a good, long drink from the horn, then takes it around the circle for the third round, saying:

A TOAST TO VICTORY! RECEIVE THEE NOW, THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION. SHARE IN THE DRINK OF VICTORY. SIG HEIL! (ANSWERED WITH A TOAST, OR 'HAIL VICTORY!')

Once the final round is completed, the gothi takes the horn to the altar and pours the remaining mead onto the ground, or, indoors, into the bowl. He then sets down the horn and hammers himself before closing the blot.

Closing

The gothi now takes up his rune staff and turns to face the circle. While leaning on the staff, he says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY, BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARERS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES; OUR FOLK; OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCESTRAL WAYS, WE REMAIN FOREVER TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL ODIN!!!

The gothi now hammer-signs himself, then prepares to remove the shield-wall. With hallowing hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, the gothi, or the shield-wall gothi, now proceeds widdershins (counter clockwise) to the western quarter. Assuming the Elhaz stadhagaldr position, he says:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING OUR FOLK AND HALLOWING THIS AREA WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL THOR!

He then continues widdershins to the southern quarter and repeats the same basic procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR SHARING YOUR SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING THIS HOF AND HALLOWING THESE GROUNDS. HAIL FREY!

Now to the eastern quarter:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING ALL IMPURE INFLUENCE AT BAY, WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, at the north:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR ERECTING A SACRED SHIELD-WALL; PROTECTING US FROM THE FORCES OF CHAOS, AND HALLOWING THIS SITE. HAIL ODIN!

The gothi now returns the hammer and staff to the altar. He then turns to face the circle, and all join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

This Blot is over.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

Wotan Blot

Wotan, the AllFather, needs no real introduction or explanation. Blots to Wotan can be held at any time, and here follows a blot constructed by John Post, for use at WinterFinding. This blot carries heavy influences from the Odinic Rite's Book of Blotar, as well as studies conducted with Heimgest, DCG-OR.



VE CALL

All participants should be arranged standing in a circle, standing well away from the firepit, or firebasket. The conducting godhi and two assistants then step out of the circle and move to three points outside the circle; presiding godhi at the north, with the two assistants standing at the southeast and southwest corners of a triangle, forming the holy *Vestead*. A third assistant moves toward the altar, clockwise, within the circle, and takes up the Moot Horn. A moment of silence, and then the Moot Horn is sounded with blasts increasing in power. At the end of each horn call, the Godhar intone, in sequence, as follows:

Godhi #1: **Wotan!**

Godhi #2: **Vili!**

Godhi #3: **Vel!**

Godhi #1: **Wotan!**

Godhi #2: **Vili!**

Godhi #3: **Vel!**

Godhi #1: **Wotan!**

Godhi #2: **Vili!**

Godhi #3: **Vel!**

This calls in three of the major aspects of the AllFather, summoning the energies and power necessary to a sound blot. Godhar and assistants return to their prior positions in the circle moving in clockwise manner.

SHIELD WALL

The Godhi, or Shield-wall Godhi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and calls:

HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAD AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO WOTAN. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

NOTE: The Godhi should actually visualize a wall of energy rising up to surround the area while he hails the forces.

The Godhi now proceeds, clockwise, to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST, LANDS OF THE RISING SUN AND BIRTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR ALLFATHER THIS NIGHT. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR THE LEADER OF THE WILD HUNT. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAMI I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO THE RUNEMASTER TONIGHT. HAMARR, HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKA!

The Godhi, still proceeding clockwise, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

OPENING THE CIRCLE

Turning to face the circle, the Godhi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms sky-ward in the Elhaz form, and says:

ANSUZ... GEBO... WUNJO... OTHALAZ... OTHALAZ... OTHALAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF WOTAN... MIGHTY FORCES OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION, SACRIFICE, HARMONY AND ANCESTRY, I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF KINSFOLK AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL WOTAN!

The Godhi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.



CONSECRATION

The Godhi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the hallowing hammer. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF WOTAN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR WINTERFINDING FESTIVAL HERE THIS NIGHT. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL WOTAN!

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Godhi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

SACRED FLAME

The Godhi now lights the central candle on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Assuming the Kenaz stadhagaldr form he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL WOTAN!

The Godhi now hammer signs himself, then he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

FIRST READING

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S FESTIVAL OF WINTERFINDING. THIS IS THE FINAL HARVEST FESTIVAL OF THIS YEAR, AND MARKS THE BEGINNING OF WINTER'S MARCH. TONIGHT WE MAKE SACRIFICE TO THANK WOTAN FOR BLESSING US WITH A PLENTIFUL HARVEST, AND IN HOPES OF SECURING A SAFE END OF THE SEASON. WE ALSO THE ALLFATHER WHO HAS SLUMBERED IN NEAR OBSCURITY FOR THE PAST THOUSAND YEARS, YET WHOSE SUBTLE PRESENCE ENABLED US TO MAINTAIN OUR EXISTENCE, AND REMIND OURSELVES OF THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE AND THE SPIRITUAL REAWAKENING OF OUR FOLK. HAIL WOTAN! HAIL WOTAN! HAIL WOTAN!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

INVOCATION

The presiding Godhi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the rune staff in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, turns to the altar, lights a single blue candle, then continues:
HAIL WOTAN! DREAD GIVER OF VICTORY, MAY YOUR GREAT WISDOM GUIDE US. I CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR BLOT. HAIL WOTAN!

Taking the rune staff in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. The presiding Godhi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL WOTAN, RIDER OF SLEIPNIR! HEAR US AS WE CALL UPON YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES;

WODANAZI

WUOTAN

ÓSKI

WODEN!

ÓðINN

ODINI

WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOUR FURY AND INSPIRATION PIERCE THE WINTER'S HEART OF SUPPRESSION AND PROMISE THE NEW SPRING OF REAWAKENING OF OUR FOLK. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR LIGHT ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, WOTAN, LORD OF ASGARD AND THE RUNES. MAY YOU FOREVER DWELL ALWAYS IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAIL YOU AS DEFENDER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY AS WELL. FREE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! WOTAN! WE INVOKE YOU...

At this point the Godhi lowers the rune staff and turns to face the Altar. He then takes up the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn, places the tip of the rune staff in the horn, raises both, and incants:

LIGHT DOWN FROM HIGH ASGARD DESCENDS, ETHER PURE IN FLOWING BOWLS. LIGHT UP TO ASGARTH ASCENDS, A MEDIATOR FOR OUR SOULS.

Again turning to face the circle he raises the rune staff and Meadhorn on high and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. WOTAN! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. WOTAN! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR WISDOM AND INSPIRATION INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT.

NOTE: The Godhi should actually visualize Wotan's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

Godhi now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds, clockwise, around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF WOTAN. WOTAN HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL WOTAN!)

After completing the circle, the Godhi hands the Bowl and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Godhi. Then he returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

SACRED READING

(second)

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

*I trow I hung
on that windy Tree
nine whole days and nights,
stabbed with a spear,
offered to Odin,
myself to mine own self given,
high on that Tree
of which none hath heard
from what roots it rises to heaven.*

Wotan gave sacrifice, endured great pain and hardship, in quest of knowledge, wisdom and inspiration. Can we do less? Ever we must quest to better ourselves, to advance upon our spiritual path so that we may, in our unique way, contribute to the advancement of our Holy Nation. Hail Wotan!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

MEMORY HORN

The Godhi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! GREAT WOTAN! SHARE WITH US YOUR WISDOM AND INSPIRATION THIS YEAR. HAIL WOTAN!

The Godhi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, WOTAN HAIL!

After completing the circle the Godhi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowli, hailing Wotan as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

Another assistant will now step forward for the third reading:

IF WOTAN CAN REDEEM

Phil Hickey

*A future bright and full of promise,
once such I had.*

*Prominent, caring family,
well educated as a Lad.*

*Alas as a youngster,
not yet in my teens,
fell prey to Alberch's kins'
wicked games did I,*

Morals confused and myself deceived.

*Indulged in the mead of despair and loss
did I,
of witches tantalizing spices,
Daily did I use.*

*With each cloud of smoke that covered me,
the Garm of lungs devoured;
with such sprinkling of powder
did Fenrir's kin gain power.*

*A thrall I became,
my sword invincible I did name,
"the needle", "hope slayer"
"Dream destroyer".*

*Ten and seven years did I remain,
Enchanted by this daughter of Alberich's spell,
In service to Fafnir
a life taken, in time, Now lost and forfeit is mine.*

*At ten and nine imprisoned,
my Dragon master led me,
to twenty and five and then maybe,
but til life I may remain.*

*Yet hark! and look ye here! hear!
for a new dawn is on the rise,
At twenty and seven a warrior reborn, Einherjar,
no longer a priest to the father of lies!*

*My redeemer, many names has he,
Allfather Wotan called out to me.*

*Unknowing of his ways or means,
I prayed to him down on my knees.
Sent me a sign of acceptance did he,
A blessing and a guide.*

*Yet not so many moons ago,
did this awakening take place.
For 'twas the first Friggasday of lenting,
and on the Asa'path I've ever walked since.*

*Many confirmations and blessings,
from the gods have I received,
and many new friends, with blessings of gifts,
have helped me on my way.*

*No longer will I be enslaved,
misguided or deceived!
To Wotan am I dedicated,
The ancient one my soul did save*

*Yea as behind these walls I may remain,
my brow-moons have seen the light of a better way,
I carry the wisdom of the ancient one*

with me e'eryday.

*"None so good he lacks all fault,
None so wretched he lacks all virtue."*

*A message from our Asa'Father
strong and true,
Fir if Wotan can redeem, save and forgive me,
Than verily the same he can do for you!*

HAIL WOTANI! HAIL WOTANI! HAILWOTANI!"

THE OATHS

After the Godhi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:
**NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MAKING OF OATHS AND
SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER
THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS,
GODDESSES AND KINSFOLK A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY
VOLUNTARY.**

The Godhi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. Godhi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oatheer enters inner circle, taking oathring with him/her. Upon conclusion of the oath, Godhi will affirm oath and mark oather with rune staff as follows:

DO YOU MAKE THIS OATH OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL?

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BEFORE YOUR KINDRED AND KIN?

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?

Upon receiving affirmation to all three questions, Godhi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

**WITH THIS RUNESTAFF BEING A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK
YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK
REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL
WOTANI**

CLOSING

The Godhi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

*Mock not the traveler met on the road,
Nor maliciously laugh at the guest:
The sitters in the hall seldom know
The kin of the new-comer*

Hávamál, St. 132-133

**ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS
MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE
ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO
AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE
ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL WOTANI!**

The Godhi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL WOTAN! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE MADE SACRIFICE TO THEE. RETURN NOW TO THY HALLS, VALHALLA AND VALASKJALF, BEARING TIDINGS THAT THE FOLK AND FAITH ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEAR GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR KIN IN ASGARD!

HAIL WOTAN! WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS, BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING VALOR AND THE EXAMPLE YOU SET FOR YOUR KIN ON MIDGARD! RETURN NOW TO ASGARD, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU! FAR HAE! WOTAN!

The Godhi, or Shield-wall Godhi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagald position and says:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY. NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN CELEBRATION OF WINTERFINDING! FAR HAE!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO WOTAN. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS DAY. FAR HAE!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF THE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TODAY. NOW GET THEE TO THY SUN DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF WOTAN AS THIS KINDRED WILL! FAR HAE!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO WOTAN. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO WOTAN WITH US, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE! FAR HAE!

The Godhi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

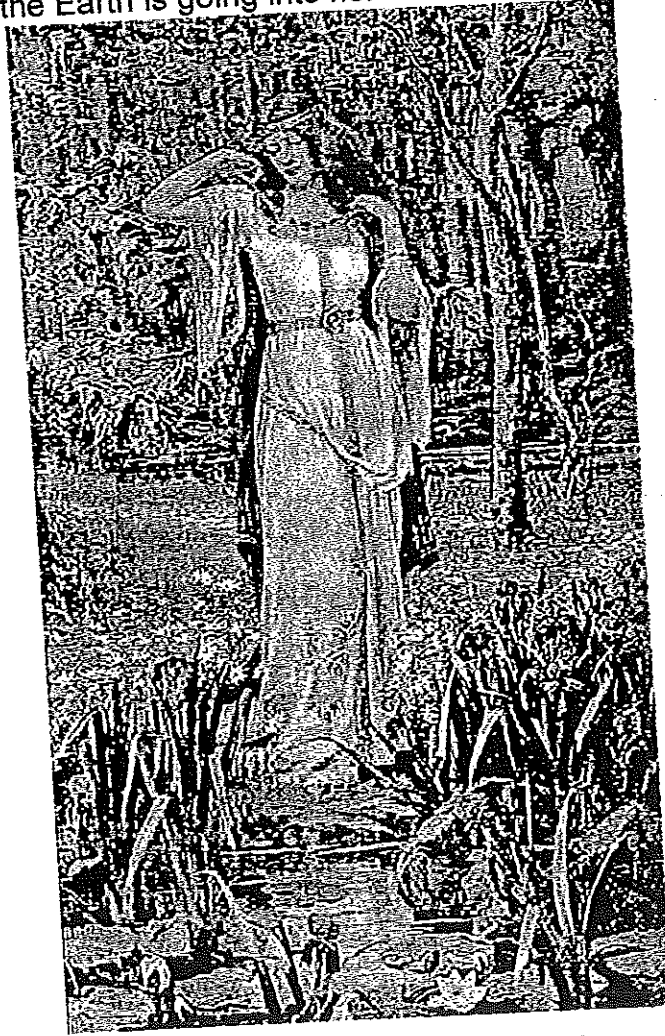
IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW

WinterNights

The Festival of WinterNights is our first true festival of the coming Winter, and occurs at a time when the veil between the worlds is beginning to weaken. This is the time of the dísir, those ancestral spirits of our female ancestors having to do with fertility, the perpetuation of life and feminine mysteries. We blot to Freyja and the Disir on this night, calling upon them to watch over and aid us as the Earth is going into her time of winter sleep.



1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Godhi, or Shield-wall Godhi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

**HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO
ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAL
AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO OUR GODS. STAV, HELGA VI
THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI**

NOTE: The Godhi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hail the forces.

The Godhi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES THIS EVE. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR OUR GODS ON THIS, THE FESTIVAL OF WINTERNIGHTS. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAMI I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO OUR GODS & GODDESSES TONIGHT. HAMARR, HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

The Godhi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Godhi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms sky-ward in the Elhaz form, and says:

FEHU... KENAZ... JERA... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF FREYJA... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND DIVINE COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL FREYJA!

The Godhi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

3. CONSECRATION.

The Godhi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR WINTERNIGHTS FESTIVAL HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL FREYJA!

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Godhi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

4. SACRED FLAME.

The Godhi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL FREYJAI HAIL THE DISIR!

The Godhi now hammer signs himself, then he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S FESTIVAL OF WINETR NIGHTS. THIS IS A FESTIVAL OF THE ANCESTRAL SPIRITS, AND MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF THE DEAD. TONIGHT WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN HOPES OF SECURING THE CONTINUED BLESSINGS AND AID OF FREYJA. WE ALSO HAIL THE DISIR, OUR FEMALE ANCESTRAL SPIRITS WHOSE REDE AND GUARDIANSHIP ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR EXISTENCE, AND REMIND OURSELVES OF THE CONTINUITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE HARSH WINTER TO COME. HAIL FREYJAI HAIL THE DISIR!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Godhi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Brisingamen in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL FREYJAI LOVELY LADY OF THE VANIR, GODDESS OF LOVE, EROTIC AND TRU. INVOKE YOU TO JOIN AS WITNESS OF OUR RESPECT FOR YOU AND THE DISIR, AND OUR LOVE FOR THE GODS & GODDESSES. HAIL FREYJAI

HAIL THE DISIR! MOTHERS OF THE FOLK! I CALL UPON YOU TO SHARE IN THIS BLC OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE. HAIL THE DISIR!

The Godhi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL FREYJA, QUEEN OF THE DISIR! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR THIS DAY. YOUR LOVE FOR THE FOLK SHINES THROUGH THE DREARIEST WINTER'S NIGHT, PIERCING WINTER'S GRIP WITH THE PROMISE OF A NEW SPRING. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR LOVE ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, FREYJA, DAUGHTER OF NJORD.

MAY YOU FOREVER DWELL ALWAYS IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAIL YOU AS DEFENDER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY AS WELL. FREE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! FREYJA! WE INVOKE YOU...

HAIL THE DISIR! WOMEN OF OUR FOLK WHO CAME BEFORE US. HEROINES ALL, WHO GAVE BIRTH TO, NOURISHED AND RAISED US UP TO FOLLOW THE RIGHT PATH. WE HAIL YOU! WE INVOKE YOU!

At this point the Godhi lowers the Brisingamen and turns to face the Altar. He then replaces the Brisingamen with the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Taking up the rune gandr and placing the tip in the mead, he again turns to face the circle raising the Meadhorn (and rune gandr) on high and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. FREYJA! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. FREY! TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND PROSPERITY INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

NOTE: The Godhi should actually visualize Freyja's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar, replacing the rune gandr. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds deosil fashion around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF FREYJA AND THE DISIR. FREYJA HAIL! HAIL THE DISIR! (ANSWERED BY HAIL FREYJA! HAIL THE DISIR!)

After completing the circle, the Godhi hands the Bowl and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Godhi. Then he returns the Bowl and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

7. SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

**The light grows weaker,
The ground is dark beneath our feet;
The veil between the worlds is thin.
As our ancestors before us,
We prepare ourselves
For the harsh season ahead.
Great lives are lived
From patterns of great convictions.**

Our daily conduct
 Is based upon our convictions.
 Our inward ethics
 Have their source in our convictions.
 Our Gods, time, space and the great laws
 These are what bind our universe together.
 We stand before our Gods,
 As our ancestors have stood before our Gods,
 With boldness of spirit
 And unwavering perseverance
 In all of life's challenges.
 Our family, hearth and home,
 And the unity that binds our people
 We covet above all earthly things.
 Gods of Asgard
 We give praise and thanks to thee
 And perform this festive blot in your honor.
 Hail the Gods,
 Hail the Folk,

HAIL FREYJAI HAIL THE DISIR! HAIL THE FOLK!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

8. MEMORY HORN.

The Godhi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:
A TOAST TO THE GODS! BEAUTIFUL FREYJAI GENEROUS DISIR! SHARE WITH US YOUR WEALTH AND PROSPERITY THIS YEAR. HAIL FREYJAI HAIL THE DISIR!

The Godhi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, FREYJA HAIL!

After completing the circle the Godhi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowl, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

9. THE OATHS.

After the Godhi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:
NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MAKING OF OATHS AND SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS AND GODDESSES AND KINSMEN A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

The Godhi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. Godhi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oathe enters inner circle, taking oath with him/her. Upon conclusion of the oath, Godhi will affirm oath and mark oathe with rune staff as follows:

**DO YOU MAKE THIS OATH OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL?
DO YOU SWEAR THIS BEFORE YOUR KINDRED AND KIN?
DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?**

Upon receiving affirmation to all three questions, Godhi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

WITH THIS RUNESTAFF BEING A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL WOTANI!

10. CLOSING.

The Godhi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL FREYJA! HAIL THE DISIR!!

The Godhi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL THE DISIR! WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS, BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING PROTECTION AND AID AND THE REDE YOU GIVE YOUR KIN ON MIDGARD! RETURN NOW TO YOUR HOMES, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU!

HAIL FREYJA! YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMING TODAY. RETURN NOW TO FOLKVANGR AND SESSRUMNIR, WITH TIDINGS FOR OUR COMRADES THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) PAID RESPECT AND HONOR TO YOU AND THE DISIR THIS EVE. FAR HAEI, FREYJA!

The Godhi, or Shield-wall Godhi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY. NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL OF WINTERNIGHTS! FAR HAEI!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO FREYJA AND THE DISIR. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS NIGHT. FAR HAEI!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF THE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TONIGHT. NOW GET THEE TO THY SUN DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF FREYJA AND THE DISIR AS THIS KINDRED WILL! FAR HAEI!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

**HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY
GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO FREYJA
AND THE DISIR. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO FREYJA
AND THE DISIR WITH US, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE!
FAR HAEL!**

The Godhi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.

By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW



Feast of the Einherjar

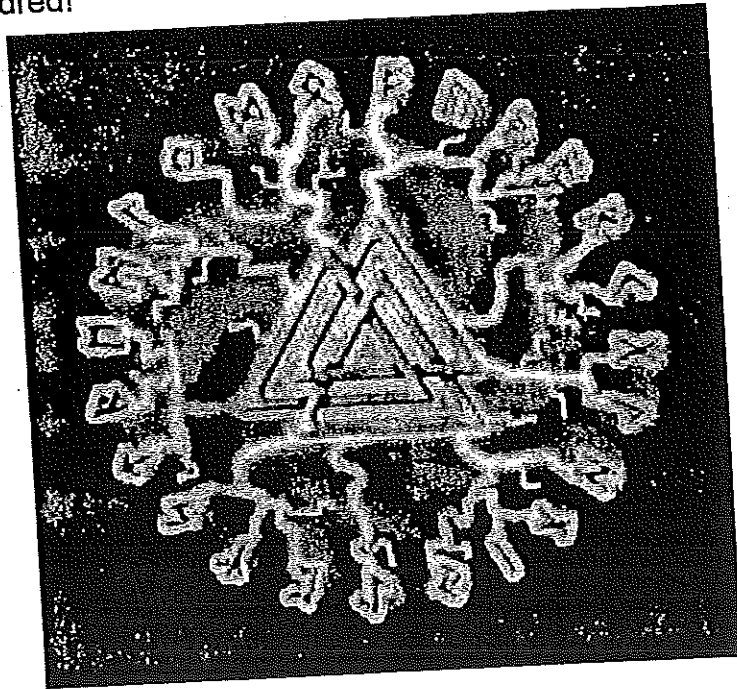
As the veil between the worlds weakens, we honor our heroic dead...

This holiday is rather unique to the Vinland sector of our faith community, and originally was part of an effort to mingle paying respect to our faith within the parameters of established holidays. Subsequently, we celebrate the Feast of the Einherjar on Veteran's Day in FogMoon (November 11th), and this has been a case of both appropriateness and timeliness as we celebrate and honor the fallen heroes of our Folk, Faith and heritage.

The Temple of Wotan traditionally celebrates with a Blot to Wotan and the Einherjar, including Freyja in the ritual as she is alleged to claim the first half of the fallen heroes. A Feast and Sumbel usually follow immediately.

Several prison kindreds traditionally use this day as an occasion to hold their twice annual competitions. This would include weightlifting, sprinting, etc., as well as other games. This sort of activity helps to promote the comradeship and unity of a prison kindred. It is believed that the Woodpile Kindred of Florence, Colorado was the first prison kindred to hold such activities.

Hail the Woodpile Kindred!



Einherjar Blot

VE CALL

All participants should be arranged standing in a circle, standing well away from the firepit, or firebasket. The conducting godhi and two assistants then step out of the circle and move to three points outside the circle; presiding godhi at the north, with the two assistants standing at the southeast and southwest corners of a triangle, forming the holy *Vestead*. A third assistant moves toward the altar, clockwise, within the circle, and takes up the Moot Horn. A moment of silence, and then the Moot Horn is sounded with blasts increasing in power. At the end of each horn call, the Godhar intone, in sequence, as follows:

Godhi #1: **Wotan!**

Godhi #2: **Vili!**

Godhi #3: **Ve!**

Godhi #1: **Wotan!**

Godhi #2: **Vill!**

Godhi #3: **Vel**

Godhi #1: **Wotan!**

Godhi #2: **Vill!**

Godhi #3: **Vel**

This calls in three of the major aspects of the AllFather, summoning the energies and power necessary to a sound blot. Godhar and assistants return to their prior positions in the circle, moving in clockwise manner.

1. HAMMER HALLOWING.

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now collects the ceremonial hammer and rune staff from the Altar. He then assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and with hammer in one hand and the rune staff in the other, pauses for a moment, and says:

HAIL MIGHTY FORCES OF THE NORTH! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS SITE AND HALLOW THIS STEAD AS WE PAY HONOR AND SACRIFICE IN BLOT TO OUR GODS. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize a wall of flame or perhaps stone surrounding the area while he hails the forces.

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion (clockwise) to the Eastern quarter. He repeats the basic procedure as above saying:

HAIL FORCES OF THE EAST! I CALL UPON YOU TO USE YOUR POWERS OF LIFE GIVING TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS KINDRED FROM ALL DISTRACTIONS AND IMPURE INFLUENCES. KEEP US SAFE AS WE GIVE SACRIFICE TO OUR GODS AND HEROIC DEAD THIS DAY. HAMARR, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

He now walks to the Southern quarter and repeats the procedure, saying:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON YOU TO ERECT A SACRED SHIELD-WALL TO PROTECT THIS STEAD, KEEPING AT BAY ALL SKRAELING AND IMPURE INFLUENCES AS WE HONOR OUR GODS ON THIS, THE FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR. STAV, HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

Finally, he travel to the Western quarter and says:

HAIL FORCES OF THE WEST, WHERE OUR SEEKING EYES MOST ROAM! I CALL UPON YOU TO RAISE A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL, WARDING THIS KINDRED AND STEAD AS WE GIVE RESPECT AND HONOR TO OUR GODS & HEROES TODAY. HAMARR, HELGE VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI

The Gothi, still proceeding deosil, walks back to the Altar and sets down the hammer and staff. He then hammer signs himself before opening the circle.

2. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

Turning to face the circle, the Gothi assumes the Isa stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment to still his mind, he lifts his arms sky-ward in the Elhaz form, and says:

ANSUZ... GEBO... SOWILO... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... ELHAZ... MIGHTY RUNES OF WOTAN... LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF SACRIFICE AND DIVINE VICTORY. I CALL UPON THY

COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL WOTANI

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before consecrating the Altar.

3. CONSECRATION.

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and picks up the rune staff. He then makes the sign of the hammer over the Altar while saying:

IN THE NAMES OF WOTAN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE AESIR AND THE VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL THE EINHERJARI

HEIMDALL GUARDS BIFROST BRIDGE, MAY THIS PLACE BE WARDED AGAINST ALL FORCES UNHARMONIOUS TO OUR PURPOSE HERE THIS DAY.

The Gothi now hammer signs himself before continuing:

4. SACRED FLAME.

The Gothi now lights the torches or candles on the Altar. He then turns and to face the circle. Leaning on his rune staff he recites the below passage while his assistant lights the fire in the pit, or if indoors, the candles at the four quarters of the circle:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF ASGARD WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL WOTANI

The Gothi now hammer signs himself, then he replaces the rune staff on the Altar. He now steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may come forward to read the first reading.

5. FIRST READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED'S FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR. THIS IS A COMMEMORATION FESTIVAL, AND MARKS A TIME WHEN WE PAY RESPECT TO THE MEMORY OF FALLEN HEROES. TODAY WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN HOPES OF EMPOWERING THE SPIRITS OF OUR FOLK BY RE-ENFORCING THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN SO THAT WE MAY LIVE, LIVE TO REAWAKEN OUR FOLK TO THE ANCIENT WAYS. WE ALSO HAIL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FAMILY, FAITH AND FOLK; OUR HOLY NATION AND ENABLE US TO MAINTAIN OUR EXISTENCE. HAIL WOTANI HAIL THE EINHERJARI HAIL THE FOLK!

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

6. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and hammer signs himself. With the ceremonial Spear in hand, he turns to face the circle and assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form. After pausing for a moment he says:

MAY THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES NOW BE WITH US. WE, THEIR FOLK, THEIR KIN, HAIL THEM.

Again he pauses for a moment, then continues:

HAIL FREYJAI QUEEN OF THE VALKYRIES! I CALL UPON YOU TO WITNESS THIS BLOT TO THE EINHERJAR AND FALLEN HEROES WHO DWELL IN YOUR HALLS! LET THOSE WHOM YOU HAVE CHOSEN ATTEND! HAIL FREYJAI

HAIL WOTANI GIVER OF VICTORY, MAY YOUR GREAT WISDOM GUIDE US. I CALL UPON YOU TO JOIN US THIS DAY, AS WITNESS TO OUR BLOT TO THE EINHERJAR, THY CHOSEN. HAIL WOTANI

HAIL THE EINHERJARI FALLEN HEROES OF VALHALLAI I CALL UPON YOU TO SHARE IN THIS BLOT OF LOVE AND SACRIFICE. HAIL THE EINHERJARI

HAIL THE FALLEN HEROES! DEFENDERS OF OUR FOLK! REDEEMERS OF OUR FOLK! HERE MY CALL! ATTEND THIS BLOT IN HONOR OF YOU AND THE GODS OF OUR ANCESTORS! HAIL THE HEROES!

The Gothi pauses once more before continuing:

HAIL WOTAN, SIGFATHER, BRINGER OF VICTORY AND DEATH! WE ARE HERE TO OFFER SACRIFICE IN HONOR OF YOU, THE EINHERJAR AND FALLEN HEROES OF OUR HERITAGE. YOUR WISDOM BRINGS VICTORY, GUNGNIR SAILING TO CLAIM THE VANQUISHED, RAISING HOPE FOR OUR FOLK AND THE PROMISE OF OVERCOMING THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN OUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE. HAIL TO YOU! AND MAY YOUR WISDOM ENTER OUR HEARTS, BE WITH US, WOTAN.

MAY YOU FOREVER DWELL ALWAYS IN THE HOMESTEADS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE HAIL YOU AS DEFENDER OF OUR FOLK AND FAMILY AS WELL. FREE US WITH YOUR SPIRIT! WOTANI WE INVOKE YOU...

At this point the Gothi lowers the Spear and turns to face the Altar. He then replaces the Spear with the pre-filled, ceremonial Meadhorn. Again turning to face the circle he raises the Meadhorn on high and continues with:

...AND WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR STRUGGLE AND OUR DETERMINATION. WOTANI ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR STEADFAST LOYALTY AND SACRED RESPECT. WOTANI TAKE OUR GIFTS, AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH, WISDOM AND WILL TO POWER INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO YOU AS WELL AS TO EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.

LIGHT DOWN FROM HIGH ASGARD DESCENDS, ETHER PURE IN FLOWING BOWLS. LIGHT UP TO ASGARTH ASCENDS, A MEDIATOR FOR OUR SOULS.

NOTE: The Gothi should actually visualize Wotan's power entering the Meadhorn from on high.

He now lowers the Meadhorn and turns to face the Altar. He pours a small amount of Mead from the horn into the bowl. After making the sign of the hammer over the bowl he takes the bowl and Evergreen sprig at hand. He proceeds deosil fashion around the circle, blessing the folk. Dipping the sprig in the Mead, he makes the sign of Gebo over the chest of the person being blessed, saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE BLESSINGS OF WOTAN. WOTAN HAIL! (ANSWERED BY HAIL WOTAN! HAIL THE EINHERJAR! HAIL THE HEROES!)

Note: Blessings may be given by conducting godhi in the name of Wotan, the Einherjar or the Fallen Heroes, and the answering hail should be appropriate to the deity/entity invoked.

After completing the circle, the Gothi hands the Bowli and Evergreen sprig to his assistant so that he may bless the Gothi. Then he returns the Bowli and sprig to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then steps to one side of the Altar so that his assistant may step forward to read the sacred reading.

7. SACRED READING.

The assistant now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

True Heroes Never Die

**Everyday leads to another
Each one different from the other
Sometimes life don't seem fair
It's a game of do or dare**

**But true heroes never die
They just leave before good-bye
Hi Ho Silver away
We'll meet again someday**

**Legends live on and on
You were the unknown phenomenon
It's funny how time slipped by
Like the blink from a teary eye**

**I see you face in the full moon
Sometimes your voice fills the room
You are my true hero
Your light forever glows**

HAIL WOTAN! HAIL THE EINHERJAR! HAIL THE HEROES"

The assistant now hammer signs himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

8. MEMORY HORN.

The Gothi now steps up to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the Meadhorn and turns to face the circle. Raising the horn on high he says:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! GREAT WOTAN! SHARE WITH US YOUR WISDOM AND COURAGE THIS YEAR. HAIL WOTAN!

The Gothi now takes the horn around the circle, deosil, giving each of the folk a chance to toast Frey, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION, WOTAN HAIL!

After completing the circle the Gothi returns to the Altar. He then pours the remaining mead either on the ground or into the Bowli, hailing Frey as he does so. He then replaces the horn on the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

9. THE OATHS.

After the gothi gathers himself, he turns to face the circle, saying:

NOW IS THE TIME WE OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR HE MAKING OF OATHS AND SACRED TROTH. NO ONE SHOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COME FORWARD, ENTER THE INNER CIRCLE, TAKE UP THE OATH RING AND SWEAR BEFORE GODS, GODDESSES AND KINSFOLK A SOLEMN AND HOLY OATH. THIS IS STRICTLY VOLUNTARY.

The Gothi pauses, allowing for oaths to be made. When this occurs, a participant will come forward, following the outline of the circle. Gothi makes Ingwaz doorway in air and oathee enters inner circle, taking oathring with him/her. Upon conclusion of the oath, Gothi will affirm oath and mark oather with rune staff as follows:

DO YOU MAKE THIS OATH OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL?

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BEFORE YOUR KINDRED AND KIN?

DO YOU SWEAR THIS BY AND BEFORE THE AESIR AND VANIR?

Upon receiving affirmation, Gothi then puts tip of Rune Staff to oather's chest and says:

WITH THIS RUNESTAFF BEING A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GUNGNIR, I MARK YOU AS WOTAN WAS MARKED WHEN HE MADE TROTH. LET THIS SYMBOLIC MARK REMIND YOU OF THE SANCTITY OF THE OATH YOU HAVE SWORN TODAY. HAIL WOTANI

10. CLOSING.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle, with rune staff in hand. While leaning on the staff he pauses for a moment and then says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FORBEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE ANCIENT WAYS WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL WOTANI!

The Gothi then turns to the altar and releases the deities as follows:

HAIL FREYJAI! YOU KNOW YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE FOR COMING TODAY. RETURN NOW TO FOLKVANGR AND SESSRUMNIR, WITH TIDINGS FOR OUR COMRADES THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) PAID RESPECT AND HONOR TO THE HEROES AND EINHERJAR THIS DAY. FAR HAEI, FREYJAI!

HAIL WOTANI! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE MADE SACRIFICE TO THY CHOSEN, THE EINHERJAR. RETURN NOW TO THY HALLS, VALHALLA AND VALASKJIALF, BEARING TIDINGS THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) IS VERY MUCH ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEARS GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR OUR KIN IN ASGARD! FAR HAEI WOTANI!

HAIL EINHERJARI! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY, AS WE PAID HONOR AND RESPECT TO YOUR OWN. RETURN TO VALHALLA WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HOLDS GREAT LOVE AND GRATITUDE FOR YOU! FAR HAEI, EINHERJARI!

HAIL HEROES OF THE FOLK! WE THANK YOU, NOT JUST FOR YOUR PRESENCE AND BLESSINGS, BUT FOR YOUR ONGOING VALOR AND THE EXAMPLE YOU SET FOR YOUR KIN ON MIDGARD! RETURN NOW TO ASGARD, AND KNOW THAT THE (KINDRED/HEARTH'S NAME) HAS GREAT LOVE FOR YOU!

The Gothi, or Shield-wall Gothi, now begin to remove the sacred Shield-wall. With the rune staff in one hand and the hammer in the other, he travels Widdershins to the Western quarter. He assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE WEST! WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE THIS DAY. NOW GET THEE GONE; RETURN TO THY HALLS AND FEAST AND MAKE MERRY IN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE EINHERJARI FAR HAE!

He now continues, Widdershins, to the Southern quarter. Repeating the same basic procedure as above, saying:

MIGHTY FORCES OF THE SOUTH! WE THANK YOU FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE GIVEN US THIS DAY AS WE GAVE BLOT TO WOTAN AND OUR HEROES. NOW, RETURN TO THY VAST HALLS AND MAKE MERRY FEAST IN CELEBRATION OF THIS DAY. FAR HAE!

Now to the Eastern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF HE RISING SUN! WE THANK YOU FOR THE VALOROUS DEED OF RAISING SUCH A FINE AND MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL TODAY. NOW GET THEE TO THY SUN DRENCHED HALLS AND FEAST IN HONOR OF THE FALLEN HEROES OF OUR HERITAGE AS THIS KINDRED WILL! FAR HAE!

Finally, back to the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE FORCES OF OUR NORTHERN HOME! WE THANK THEE FOR THY GENEROUS HELP IN RAISING THE SHIELD-WALL FOR OUR SACRIFICE TO WOTAN AND THE FALLEN HEROES. RETURN TO YOUR HALLS, AND WHILST THOU FEASTS TO THE EINHERJAR WITH US, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OUR GRATITUDE! NOW, BEGONE! FAR HAE!

The Gothi now returns to the Altar and replaces the hammer and staff. He then turns to face the circle and all join him in making the sign of the hammer and saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.



By John R Post, Allsherjargodhi, ToW

Land Taking

Reclaiming a Sacred Site

[Editor's Note: This ritual is used, normally, for sanctifying or claiming new sites, or reclaiming old sites for the purpose of worship and/or gatherings of the Folk.]

This ritual begins with the Gothi positioned at the Northern quarter, facing the fire-pit. He has three assistants; each positioned at a separate quarter, East, South and West. The rest of the kindred position themselves at will around the fire-pit. The Gothi now steps forward and kindles the fire in the pit while saying:

**"IN THE NAMES OF WOTAN, VILI AND VE WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF
CLEANSING AND CREATION, THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL
MERCY. LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGH THE
DARKNESS WE MAY COME TO THE LIGHT. AND MAY THE MIGHTY
FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE
MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. WOTAN, VILI AND VE, HELP THIS
FLAME RESTORE, ONCE AGAIN, THE SACRED ARYAN SPIRIT TO THIS
SACRED SITE. HAIL WOTAN! HAIL VILI! HAIL VE!"**

The Gothi now hammer signs himself and returns to his original position in the North. The Gothi and his three assistants now begin to perform the "Holy Ve". Beginning with the Gothi in the North, the Gods are hailed in three rounds:

**N: HAIL WOTAN!
E: HAIL VILI!
S: HAIL VE!**

**W: HAIL WOTAN!
N: HAIL VILI!
E: HAIL VE!**

**S: HAIL WOTAN!
W: HAIL VILI!
N: HAIL VE!**

Next the same procedure is used to chant the runes of the Elder Futhark, one Aett at a time:

**N: FEHU, URUZ, THURISAZ, ANSUZ, RIADO, KENAZ, GEBO, WUNJO.
E: HAGALAZ, NAUTHIZ, ISA, JERA, EIWAZ, PERTHO, ELHAZ, SOWILO.
S: TIWAZ, BERKANO, EHWAZ, MANNAZ, LAGUZ, INGWAZ, DAGAZ, OTHALAZ.**

**W: FEHU, URUZ, THURISAZ, ANSUZ, RAIDO, KENAZ, GEBO, WUNJO.
N: HAGALAZ, NAUTHIZ, ISA, JERA, EIWAZ, PERTHO, ELHAZ, SOWILO.
E: TIWAZ, BERKANO, EHWAZ, MANNAZ, LAGUZ, INGWAZ, DAGAZ, OTHALAZ.**

**S: FEHU, URUZ, THURISAZ, ANSUZ, RAIDO, KANAZ, GEBO, WUNJO.
W: HAGALAZ, NAUTHIZ, ISA, JERA, EIWAZ, PERTHO, ELHAZ, SOWILO.
N: TIWAZ, BERKANO, EHWAZ, MANNAZ, LAGUZ, INGWAZ, DAGAZ, OTHALAZ.**

Once completed, the Gothi and his assistants hammer sign themselves before continuing. The assistant at the Southern quarter now steps forward a pace or two, saying:

**THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER TO RECLAIM
THIS LAND AS OUR OWN. MAY THE SPIRITS OF OUR ANCESTORS AND
THEIR GODS BE WITH US THIS DAY. MAY THE SPIRITS OF THE LAND OF
OUR HOLY MOTHER EARTH GREET US THIS DAY AS WELL. MUCH**

**PRAISE TO THE HIGH GODS SHALL BE HEARD IN THIS PLACE, MAY
THEY BE WITH US AND ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE AND HONOR WE BRING.
HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL THE KINDRED!**

The assistant hammer signs himself and returns to his original position. The Gothi now assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form and says:

**HAIL THE AESIR AND THE VANIR! HAIL THE NORNS! HAIL CREATION OF
LIFE! HAIL OUR NOBLE ANCESTORS! HAIL COMRADES AND HAIL THOSE
YET TO COME! HAIL THE SPIRITS OF THE AIR, TREE, STONE, FIRE AND
WATER! HAIL THE SPIRITS OF OUR LAND AND HAIL OUR HOLY MOTHER
EARTH!**

**HAIL THE LAND ALFS! HAIL THE HOLY DISIR! HAIL THE SPIRITS THAT
MAY RESIDE HERE! HARKEN TO MY WORDS! WE GIVE YOU HONOR AS
IN DAYS OF OLD. LET THERE BE PEACE BETWEEN US AND NOT STRIFE.
LET HARMONY PREVAIL. I GIVE THEE NOW AN OFFERING.**

He now pours a full horn of Mead in the ground, then says:

**TAKE NOW OUR OFFERINGS AND GIVE OUR KINDRED AID IN OUR
DEALINGS WITH THIS SACRED SITE; EVEN AS YOU THWART AND
CONFOUND OUR FOES. THUS MAY WE BE ALLIES.**

Making the hammer sign he continues with:

**MAY THE BLESSING OF THE HAMMER WIELDER GIVE YOU GOOD AND
MAY HIS FATHER LOOK WITH FAVOR ON YOU.**

He pauses a moment and says:

**IN HARMONY WITH THE HOLY POWERS, WE HEREBY TAKE THIS LAND
FOR OUR GODS AND FOR OUR KINDRED! MAY THE NORTHERN SPIRIT
FOREVER REIGN!**

Now all make the hammer sign saying:

**IN THE NAMES OF WOTAN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE
KINDRED!**

THE RITE IS ENDED.

By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW

Initiation/Induction Blot

Rites of Profession, initiation or induction can be found in all kindreds and hearths, though they may vary as to focus and intensity.

The ceremony begins with the folk being assembled in a semi-circle around the Altar. The Gothi (and the shield-wall Gothi, if one is available) enters the circle and observes a moment or two of silence in order to still the mind and prepare those present for the ritual at hand. The Gothi (or shield-wall Gothi) now proceeds to erect a holy Shield-wall and to hallow the ritual area. Facing North, he assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form and with runestaff and hammer in hand, saying:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! I HEREBY CALL UPON THY POWERS TO ERECT A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. TO PROTECT THIS STEAD AND TO HALLOW THIS ENCLOSURE. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL ODINI

The Gothi now proceeds in a deosil fashion to the Eastern quarter and repeats the above procedure saying:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO KEEP OUT ALL IMPURE INFLUENCES WITH A HOLY SHIELD-WALL. TO PROTECT THIS STEAD AND TO HALLOW THIS ENCLOSURE. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL BALDURI

And to the southern quarter:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO PROTECT THY KINDRED WITH A MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL AND TO HALLOW THIS ENCLOSURE. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL FREY!

Finally, to the Western quarter:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! I CALL UPON THY POWERS TO KEEP THE NEARBY CHRISTIAN INFLUENCES AT BAY WITH A HOLY SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND TO HALLOW THIS ENCLOSURE. HELGA VE THETTA OK HINDRA ALLA ILLSKAI HAIL THOR!

The Gothi now returns the rune staff and hallowing hammer to the Altar. He then hammer signs himself before continuing.

3. OPENING THE CIRCLE.

The Gothi now turns to face the circle. He pauses for a moment and then assumes the Tiwaz/Elhaz stadhagaldr position saying:

TIWAZ...TIWAZ...TIWAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ...ELHAZ... WARRIOR RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF JUSTICE, COURAGE AND HONOR, LIFE RUNE, MIGHTY FORCE OF PROTECTION AND OF DIVINE COMMUNICATION. I CALL UPON THY COMBINED POWERS TO BLESS AND TO CLEANSE THIS GATHERING OF WARRIORS AND TO OPEN THIS CIRCLE TO THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD. HAIL TYR!

The Gothi now turns to face the Altar and hammer signs himself before continuing.

4. CONSECRATION.

With rune staff in hand, the Gothi now faces the Altar and makes the sign of the hammer with the staff, as he does so he says:

IN THE NAME OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, I CONSECRATE THIS ALTAR AND PLACE OF SACRIFICE TO THE JUST SERVICE OF THE HOLY AESIR AND VANIR; BANISHING FROM IT ALL SKRAELING OR IMPURE INFLUENCES FOR OUR RITE OF INITIATION, HERE THIS DAY. BY THE POWERS OF THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES OF ASGARD MAY THIS BE SO. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL TYR!

The Gothi hammer signs himself before continuing.

5. SACRED FLAMES.

The Gothi lights the candles on the Altar, then turns to face the circle and while leaning on his rune staff says:

IN THE NAME OF THE HIGH GODS OF VALHALLA WE KINDLE THE FIRES OF CLEANSING AND CREATION-THE FIRST MYSTERY AND THE FINAL MERCY.

At this point the Gothi's assistant lights the fire in the pit or the candles around the circle in a deosil fashion. The Gothi continues:

LET FLAME BE KINDLED BY FLAME SO THAT THROUGHT THE DARKNESS WE CAN COME INTO THE LIGHT; MAY THE MIGHTY FLAME OF OUR KINDRED, WHICH EVER BURNS, GROW AGAIN TO BATHE MIDGARD IN IT'S SACRED RADIANCE. HAIL ODIN! HAIL TYR!

The Gothi now returns the runestaff to the Altar, hammer sign himself, then steps to one side of the Altar in order to allow his assistant to come forward and begin the first reading.

6. FIRST READING.

The Gothi's assistant now comes forward and hammer signs himself at the Altar. He then turns to face the circle and reads the following:

THIS IS THE RITE OF INITIATION FOR THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED OF (PLACE KINDRED IS LOCATED) ; THE ACT OF BINDING ONESELF TO THE HIGH GODS AND GODDESSES AND TO THE KINDRED ITSELF. THE RITE OF INITIATION IS A HOLY RITE-PROVING THE WILLINGNESS OF THE INITIATE TO SACRIFICE-AND SHOWING HIS DEVOTION TO THE HIGH GODS/GODDESSES AS WELL AS TO THE KINDRED ITSELF. TODAY WE INVOKE MIGHTY TYR, THE ANCIENT GOD OF WAR, GOD OF JUSTICE AND THE GOD OF OATHS. HAIL TYR! HAIL TYR! HAIL TYR!

The assistant now hammer sign himself and then returns to his position in the circle.

7. INVOCATION.

The Gothi now steps to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then picks up the ceremonial sword and turns to face the circle. After pausing for a moment, he raises the sword on high while standing in the Elhaz stadhagaldr position and says:

HAIL ODIN! ANCIENT CHIEFTAIN OF ASGARD AND SUPREME LEADER OF THE EINHERJARI BE WITH US FOR OUR RITE OF INITIATION, HERE THIS DAY. GUIDE US DOWN OUR PATH AND LEAD US TO VALHALLA!

HAIL THOR! MIGHTY PROTECTOR OF THE GODS AND DEFENDER OF THAT WHICH IS

**RIGHT! WITNESS OUR VOWS AND GUIDE OUR HANDS IN TIMES OF WAR.
HAIL HEIMDALL! GREAT GUARDIAN AND TEACHER. HEAR OUR REDE THIS DAY.
HAIL FRIGGA! HAIL FREYA! HAIL THE HOLY NORNS! HAIL THE AESIR AND THE
VANIR! BE WITH US HERE THIS DAY.**

The Gothi pauses for a moment and then continues with:

**HAIL TYR! GREAT GOD OF HONOR AND JUSTICE! GOD OF WARRIORS! GOD OF THE
HOLY OATH! TYR! TODAY WE MAKE SACRIFICE IN YOUR HONOR. YOU WHO INSPIRE
US IN COURAGE AND SACRIFICE, AND REASSURE US IN THE WORKS OF JUSTICE
AND ORDER. YOU WHO GAVE US THE VERY WORD FOR GOD: TYR! YOU WHOSE
EVERY ACTION GOES TOWARDS THE ADVANCEMENT AND SAFETY OF OUR FOLK.
YOU, BINDER OF THE WOLF AND BRINGER OF VICTORY! TYR! TODAY OUR KINDRED
AND OUR INITIATES HAVE NEED OF YOUR PRESENCE. TYR! HEAR US. HEED OUR
SUMMONS AS WE CALL OUT TO YOU BY YOUR ANCIENT NAMES MOST SACRED.
COME TO US NOW... SAXNOT! JUST GOD! WOLF BINDER! WAR GOD! SWORD
COMPANION! THING GOD! ONE-HANDED GOD! GOD OF OATHS! TIWAZI
GREAT TYR! YOUR STORY OF SACRIFICE HAS THRILLED OUR ANCESTORS AROUND
COUNTLESS CAMPFIRES AND BY THE HEARTHES OF A HUNDRED TIMES A HUNDRED
HALLS. TYR! INSPIRED BY YOUR BRAVERY WE CALL OUT TO YOU AS OUR GOD.
TYR! WE INVOKE YOU...**

The Gothi now lowers the sword and returns it to the Altar. He then picks up the Mead horn, turns to face the circle and raises the horn on high, saying:

**WE OFFER YOU SACRIFICE. THE SACRIFICE OF OUR EFFORTS, OUR
DETERMINATION AND OUR STRUGGLES. TYR! ACCEPT THE SACRIFICE WE HAVE
PREPARED IN YOUR HONOR AS A SIGN OF OUR UNDYING LOYALTY AND SACRED
RESPECT. TYR! TAKE OUR GIFTS; AND POUR NOW YOUR STRENGTH AND
INSPIRATION INTO THIS MEAD SO THAT WE MAY GROW STRONGER AND CLOSER TO
YOU AS WELL AS EACH OTHER BY SHARING IT AMONGST US.**

The Gothi now lowers the horn and turns to face the Altar. After hammer signing the horn, he then pours a little Mead into the bowl. Taking the bowl and an evergreen sprig in hand he proceeds in a deosil fashion to bless the folk. Making the sign of Gebo with the sprig dipped in Mead, he says:

**WITH THIS MEAD, THE BLOOD OF THE GODS, I GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH AND
INSPIRATION OF TYR. HAIL TYR!**

Once the circle is completed, the Gothi hands the bowl and sprig to his assistant in order for himself to be blessed. After which, the Gothi returns the bowl and sprig to the Altar. He then hammer signs himself and steps to one side of the Altar for the swearing in of the initiate by the law speaker.

8. SECOND READING.

The Law Speaker now steps to the Altar and hammer signs himself. He then turns to face the circle and calls the initiate forward. After hammer signing himself at the Altar, the Initiate goes to the middle of the circle to stand before the Law Speaker. The Law Speaker now swears the Initiate in by saying:

YOU STAND BEFORE THE MIGHTY GODS OF ASGARD; AND BEFORE THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED. WE WOULD KNOW IF YOU HEREBY SPURN AND REJECT THE GODS AND PROPHETS, THE CREEDS AND DOCTRINES, THE PRIESTS AND MINISTERS OF THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN RELIGION. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THEIR TEACHINGS ARE FALSE AND CONTRARY TO THE TRUE INTERESTS OF OUR FOLK AND THE LAWS OF NATURE? YOU ARE NOW READY TO SWEAR AN OATH BEFORE THE MIGHTY GODS OF ASGARD AND BEFORE THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED. BEFORE ALL AND BY YOUR HONOR, BY YOUR BLOOD, BY YOUR HEART AND BY YOUR BEING YOU WILL SWEAR YOUR OATH. WILL YOU CONTINUE? ARE YOU WILLING TO DEDICATE YOURSELF TO THE PRESERVATION AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ANCIENT FAITH OF OUR FOLK, KNOWN AS ASATRU, AS WELL AS TO THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED? DO YOU HEREBY SWEAR YOUR ALLIANCE TO THE ANCIENT FAITH OF OUR FOLK, AS WELL AS TO THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED? SO BE IT MARKED, YOU ARE NOW A TRYE MEMBER OF THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED!

The Law Speaker now gives the new member the traditional kindred handshake. The Gothi then steps forward to bless the new member with the bowl and Evergreen sprig. He makes the sign of Gebo with the sprig dipped in Mead while saying:

WITH THIS MEAD, BLOOD OF THE GODS, I HEREBY LINK YOU TO THE MIGHTY GODS OF ASGARD AND TO THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED. SIG HEIL!

The new member answers with:

HAIL VICTORY! HAIL THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED!

The Gothi now replaces the bowl and Evergreen sprig on the Altar and then gives the new member the traditional kindred handshake. Both hammer sign themselves and the new member returns to his place in the circle.

9. MEMORY HORN.

Now the Gothi picks up the Mead horn, turns to face the circle and raises the horn on high and says:

A TOAST TO THE GODS! I RAISE THIS HORN IN HONOR OF THE GOD OF BRAVERY AND COURAGE. THE GOD OF SELF SACRIFICE. THE GOD OF HONOR AND SUPREME VIRTUE. A HORN TO TYR-ANCIENT GOD OF WAR! HAIL TYR!

He then takes the horn in a deasil fashion around the circle, offering all an opportunity to toast the gods, saying:

A TOAST TO THE GODS, SHARE IN THE MEAD OF INSPIRATION.

The Gothi returns the horn to the Altar and pours the remainder of the Mead into the bowl. He then hammer signs himself before closing the ceremony.

10. CLOSING.

The Gothi takes the rune staff from the Altar and turns to face the circle. leaning on his staff, he says:

ONCE AGAIN THE (NAME OF KINDRED) KINDRED HAS COME TOGETHER, NOT AS MANY BUT AS ONE, UNITED IN THE KINDRED SPIRIT OF OUR FOREBEARS. MAY WE ALL CONTINUE WITH OUR QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE, AND TO USE THIS WISDOM TO AID OUR FAMILIES, OUR FOLK AND OUR FUTURE. TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR OWN KIND WE REMAIN TRUE. HAIL THE AESIR! HAIL THE VANIR! HAIL TYR!

The Gothi (or the shield wall Gothi) now proceeds in a widdershins fashion to the Western quarter in order to remove the shield wall. With the rune staff and hallowing hammer in hand he assumes the Elhaz stadhagaldr form, saying:

HAIL THE WESTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING THE NEARBY CHRISTIAN INFLUENCES AT BAY WITH YOUR HOLY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL THOR!

He continues widdershins to the Southern quarter and once again assuming the Elhaz stadhagaldr position says:

HAIL THE SOUTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THY KINDRED WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL FREY!

And to the Eastern quarter, repeating the same procedure as above:

HAIL THE EASTERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR KEEPING OUT ALL IMPURE INFLUENCES WITH YOUR HOLY SHIELD-WALL, PROTECTING THIS STEAD. HAIL BALDUR!

Finally, at the Northern quarter:

HAIL THE NORTHERN FORCES! WE THANK THEE FOR PROTECTING THIS STEAD AND HALLOWING THIS ENCLOSURE WITH YOUR MIGHTY SHIELD-WALL. HAIL ODIN!

The Gothi now replaces the hammer and rune staff on the Altar. He then turns to face the circle and all present join him in making the sign of the hammer, saying:

IN THE NAMES OF ODIN, BALDUR, FREY AND THOR, WE HAIL THE KINDRED!

THE BLOT IS OVER.



By G. Scott Tolley, Konigshofgodhi, ToW



Additional Notes:

It is official policy of the Temple of Wotan...

- 1) Not to toast Loki. To do such empowers malevolence.**

There is no accurate reference to the need to toast this energy in the lore.

- 2) To celebrate Yule over a twelve to thirteen day period of time.**

Refer to the booklet, Our Yule, from the Hearth of Yggdrasil.

- 3) Long hair and beards are not requirements of our faith/religion.**

To continue to refer to how our ancestors viewed our deities as a reference for living today is a continuance of buying into the illusions created by those who would suppress our holy faith. To emulate our Gods & Goddesses is to live the Nine, not to ape them in appearance.

- 4) Pork is not a mandatory part of our diet nor is there an official religious diet.**

There does not exist any reference in the Lore to any sort of specific religious diet. While pork is encouraged for certain feasts, but only from a cultural aspect, we must bear in mind that this was not a staple for our ancestors. Horse meat, lots of fish, fowl, venison etc, is historically more accurate.

- 5) There are no "secret" handshakes.**

Complete bollocks! We are not a secret society, but a religion of our folk.

- 6) The runes are magic (for lack of a better description) symbols, and are not to be used for writing or communicating in the mundane world.**

Apart from a few inscriptions, there is no evidence that our holy Elder Futhark was used for anything other than amgical and divinational purposes. The powers held and conveyed through the runes are raw and unrefined, difficult to harness and control. In using them for communication purposes, we risk unleashing powers and forces which have the potential to harm any concerned.

- 7) The taking of personal property from those who are deemed as nithlings, outlaws, outcasts, or otherwise, is strictly prohibited. To participate in such activity is nothing short of theft.**

Members of the Temple of Wotan are dedicated toward their own spiritual advancement. As such, they should be aware of the negative energies one can attract by dispensing perceived justice, which is the realm of the Gods & Goddess and Wyrd. It is not our place, as mortals, to actively interfere with another's Hamingja, Orlog or Wyrd. It should also be noted that such actions put the *enforcer* on the same level as the original violator.

- 8) Gang-related activity is prohibited. The Temple does not condone, approve of or promote such.**

While we are sensitive to the needs of the individual in this regard, the Temple, in pursuit of Wotanic Consciousness and the advancement of Family, Faith and Folk, finds there is no place in our Holy Religion for such activity. If one is truly dedicated to advancing on their personal spiritual path and the promoting of our Faith and culture, they will act accordingly.

- 9) Political activity has no place within the Temple. We are a religious institution seeking to promote and advance our holy faith. Nothing more, nothing less.**

The main purpose of the Temple of Wotan is to promote Family, Faith and Folk. In this regard, and especially in these times, political activity along any lines, which do not further our Holy Religion, is completely out of the question. This does not mean that we wish to dictate political viewpoints, as we respect every individual's right to such. To mix the two successfully assists those who would suppress the Great Reawakening and return of our Holy Religion.

For more information, refer to Member's Handbook for the Temple of Wotan.

